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CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Meets in St. Petersburg

Shumeyko Views Tasks

LD0802105794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0945 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Svetlana Ivanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 8 TASS—Speakers of the two chambers of the Russian parliament—Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin—have arrived here today to attend a session of the Council of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

Shumeyko told ITAR-TASS at the airport here that even in dealing with international matters some statesmen had the habit of "looking what the neighbour will do" and waiting for somebody to make the first step. "This is why," the speaker of the Council of the Federation (the upper chamber of the Russian parliament) believes, "the economic union treaty, signed on September 24, 1993, has still not been ratified by CIS parliaments."

Shumeyko believes that the main task confronting the current session of the Interparliamentary Assembly is to create a mechanism to settle problems linked with the ratification of inter-state treaties. Shumeyko thinks the leaders of the delegations, attending the current session, are able to reach an agreement on the simutlaneous ratification of the economic union treaty by all the CIS parliaments.

Shumeyko Elected Chairman

LD0802110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] St. Petersburg February 8 ITAR-TASS—The Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of the Independent States today elected Vladimir Shumeyko council chairman by secret ballot.

The vote was taken soon after the opening of the council meeting, which is attended by representatives of all parliaments of the Commonwealth member countries, except Uzbekistan.

Georgia is for the first time attending as a fully-fledged member. Moldova and Ukraine have sent observers.

Vladimir Shumeyko is speaker of the Russian federal legislature's upper chamber.

All eight leaders of the parliamentary delegations from Commonwealth states voted for Shumeyko, whose candidature had been previously approved by the parliament leaders in some Commonwealth countries.

Shumeyko Says CIS Strengthened

LD0802120094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 8 TASS—Vladimir Shumeyko, elected chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA) of the Commonwealth of Independent States by secret ballot here today, told ITAR-TASS that the assembly has a great role to play in strengthening the Commonwealth. "No matter what economic and other agreements may be signed by the executive, they are difficult to translate into life without a legislative basis which provides a firm foundation," Shumeyko said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS.

"This foundation can be created only by the parliaments of the Commonwealth member states. If we learn to consider coordination of legislation of all CIS states at IPA sessions, we shall be able to remove unnecessary barriers hampering the development of market economies and combine the national economies of the Commonwealth member states quite soon. I mean legislation concerning taxes, export/import duties and the customs union," Vladimir Shumeyko said and added that much work was lying ahead.

As concerns IPA's political significance, it is also great, according to the assembly chairman. Interparliamentary assemblies have long existed in Europe and Asia, he said. Now an Interparliamentary Assembly has also appeared on the territory of the former Soviet Union. "It must have a significant weight in the world because is has brought together countries which have embarked on the path of democratic reforms," Shumeyko said. He stressed the need of establishing contacts with other, older interparliamentary assemblies.

Communique on Meeting

LD0802203694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1816 GMT 8 Feb 94

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 8 TASS—A meeting of the Commonwealth Inter-Parliamentary Assembly's Council ended here today after electing Head of the Russian Upper Chamber Vladimir Shumeyko its chairman.

The meeting welcomed delegations of Azeri and Georgian parliaments who have become members of the Commonwealth Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

The meeting focused on bringing national legislation in correspondence with the treaty on economic union and other commonwealth agreements and approved an initiative on Karabakh settlement put forward by the commonwealth interparliamentary group headed by Kyrgyz Parliament Chairman Meditkhan Sherimkulov.

A regular meeting of the assembly's working group on the issue is scheduled for next spring in Bishkek.

"The council stated deepened relations between the Commonwealth Interparliamentary Assembly and interparliamentary organizations of the world. A decision of the Interparliamentary Union to give the assembly the status of permanent observer at the Interparliamentary Union was given special attention. The assembly's council is fruitfully cooperating with the Nordic Council, the Finnish Parliament, the International Red Cross Committee and the Aland Peace Institute in joint peacemaking operations," says the meeting communique.

The meeting also decided to announce a contest for best designs of the assembly flag and emblem.

The fourth plenary meeting is scheduled for March 17-18, 1994, in St. Petersburg.

Assembly Agrees To Meet on Karabakh

LD0802222194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The main result of a meeting of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Council in St. Petersburg today is the agreement to hold an interparliamentary meeting of the CIS states on the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek this spring. This statement was made by the new chairman of the assembly's council, Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Vladimir Shumeyko, at a press conference in St. Petersburg.

Shumeyko said the proposal was initiated by the CIS Interparliamentary Group chaired by Kyrgyz Parliamentary Speaker Meditkan Sherimkulov.

Azerbaijani Deputy Speaker Afiyaddin Dzhalilov expressed his satisfaction over an agreement with Armenian Speaker Babken Ararktsyan on this issue pointing out that "positive moves" were taking shape. Ararktsyan told the press conference that Armenia is ready to consider the joint initiative by Russia, CSCE and the Interparliamentary Assembly Council to stop hostilities in Nagorno- Karabakh and the laying of any territorial claims on Azerbaijan.

The council decided to hold a fourth plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg on March 17-18 and to announce a contest for the the designing of the assembly's flag and emblem.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 9 Feb

LD0902073394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0610 GMT 9 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the election of Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council—the upper house of Russia's Federal Assembly (parliament)—as the chairman of the Council of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

The newspaper points out that under present conditions the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly "will hardly play the political role which was assigned to it by former speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov.

In the opinion of the newspaper, "The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly is most likely to transform from a high-aiming agency into yet another CIS show helping the new and old speakers to stay aware of their political significance".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA frontpages an article headlined "A Disintegration Process in Russia's Nuclear Power Industry Is Under Way".

According to the newspaper, the fuel reserves at such major Russian nuclear power stations as the Smolensk and Leningrad ones will suffice for 11 and 14 days respectively. If nothing changes, electric power will be supplied to central Russia only for several hours a day, the newspaper cautions.

"Last year, Russia's nuclear power stations, according to international organisations, operated more reliably than those of the United States and France," the writer of the article pointed out.

"It was necessary, it would seem. To support our nuclear power industry. Instead, it has been subjected to large-scale experiments", with the necessary funds not being assigned, the author of the article writes, recalling that nuclear power stations supply electricity to Moscow, St. Petersburg, and practically the entire south-western region of Russia.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan who dwelt on economic problems and migration processes.

Nazarbayev remarked that he is worried at the outflow of ethnic Germans from the republic. "I understand the feelings of people who seek to return to their historical homeland, the more so as most of them had arrived in Kazakhstan not of their own will. But during talks with the leaders of Germany I always raise matters aimed at expanding the presence of German business in Kazakhstan", Nazarbayev said.

Speaking about relations with Russia, Nazarbayev said the two countries are equally interested in meeting their commitments. Treaties on military cooperation and joint space projects are now in the works, he added.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA frontpages an article about the course of investigation of the case involving participants in the October events of last year in Moscow. The investigation concerning former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, just as all the other arrested after the

September-October crisis, is proceeding agonisingly slowly, the writer of the article maintains.

"Virtually, the charge against Rutskoy is based on his only phrase urging people to seize the Moscow mayor's office and the Ostankino Television centre," the author of the article points out. The journalist believes that the proceedings are being dragged out while the election campaign promises by many a member of the State Duma about their intention to set up special parliamentary commissions to inquire into the case proved unfulfilled.

"One can suppose that the 'Octobrists' case' will hardly be examined by a law-court this year. Upon playing its election- campaign role, the case is most likely to surface again only when the time will come for yet another election campaign," the journalist concludes.

TRUD reports that last year Russian customs houses prevented the smuggling of valuables, worth about 110,000 million roubles, out of the country. "The customs services confiscated 4,000 art object and antiques, and more than 50,000 firearms," the newspaper said.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), commenting on Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's tour of units of the Privolzhskiy military district, points out that such trips are prompted by the fact that "it is urgently necessary to check on the spot the possibility of implementing the new ideas inherent in the military doctrine".

PRAVDA announces that President Boris Yeltsin will soon deliver a report to the Federal Assembly on the country's national security strategy.

In this connection the newspaper runs one of the alternative projects drawn up by a group of independent experts. The project was prepared with an eye to a national doctrine in this respect.

The drafters of the project believe that "preventing a civil war, strengthening state institutions, precluding a break-up of Russia, and overcoming the socio-economic crisis are the most acute problems facing the state in 1994".

Lukin Dismissed From Post as U.S. Ambassador

LD0802191394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1825 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin has today relieved 57-year-old Vladimir Lukin from his post as Russian ambassador to the United States, which he has occupied since February 1992, due to his taking up another job, the Russian President's press service reported to ITAR-TASS.

Expert Describes 'New Nuclear Missile Program'

PM0802172994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "New Nuclear Missile Program: In 10 Years Russia Will Be Defended by Topols"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] An arms development program has been drawn up for Russia's strategic nuclear forces through the year 2005. In an exclusive interview Lev Volkov, full member of the International and Russian Engineering Academies and corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who was involved in drawing up the program, told IZVESTIYA's military correspondent about its contents.

Under the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms, Volkov said, the Strategic Missile Forces, which perform the role of chief deterrent force, may comprise 1,300 launchers with single-warhead ICBM's by the set deadline. But the country's actual economic potential will allow us to possess just 900 launchers. Which missile is to be chosen for this?

A number of Russian scientific collectives, independent ones included, have researched possible scenarios for strategic nuclear forces operations, modeled their dynamics, and come to the conclusion that the prospective Strategic Missile Forces grouping must comprise a standardized solid-fuel missile like the modernized SS-25 ICBM with two basing options: stationary, in launch silos; and mobile, on self-propelled launchers with a wheeled chassis.

IZVESTIYA information: The SS-25 ICBM (in Russia it is called the Topol RS-12M) is considered one of the most successful off-road mobile missile systems. The missile is made in Votkinsk. It weighs 45 tonnes and its throw-weight is equivalent to one tonne. It has been on alert duty in the Strategic Missile Forces since 1985. The general designer is Boris Lagutin.

Why has the SS-25 been chosen from among the six existing types of missiles? In Lev Volkov's opinion, there are several reasons for this. First, it uses solid fuel, which is safe in operation, and this in itself provides a substantial gain. Second, it is very economical. Given our infrastructure of existing and possible position areas, the road network in them, special geological features, the cost of capital construction, and the availability of housing for officers and their families, such a missile will be most affordable.

At the same time the optimum ratio of stationary and mobile missile systems has also been established: 60-70 to 40-30.

Specialists proceeded from an assessment of their combat efficiency and cost. It transpired that the average expenditure per warhead whose delivery to target can be guaranteed is for mobile-based single-warhead missiles practically coincident with the expenditure for stationary launchers with the now accepted degree of protection. If the silos' degree of protection is increased, their cost could end up almost twice that of mobile systems.

Incidentally, Lev Volkov said, it is known that there have been eight disasters involving the operation of nuclear-powered submarines with nuclear missiles on board in the naval strategic nuclear forces of our country and the United States. Nuclear munitions have been lost and people have died. There have been similar occurrences with aircraft, but God has spared the Strategic Missile Forces. According to specialists' calculations, the probability of an incident involving a mobile launcher is estimated at one in 100,000 in the course of a year; that is, if 500 SPU's [self-propelled launchers] are operated for 10 years, there could be a 5-percent probability of an incident involving one of them.

In industry such a probability is considered safe.

I asked Lev Ivanovich why the Americans abandoned the Midgetman land-based mobile system if they are so efficient and safe to operate. The reason is simple: By the year 2005 the United States will have 18 nuclear-powered submarines with powerful and highly accurate Trident-2 missiles (1,728 warheads in all) capable of hitting both pinpoint and area targets. This is more than enough for a deterrent. They have no need to spend money on new development.

We will not do this either.

Yeltsin Says Russia 'Closely Following' Bosnia Situation

LD0802221494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is closely following the situation in Bosnia in the wake of the recent tragedy in Sarajevo, one of his aides said.

Dmitry Ryurikov, the president's international affairs aide, in an interview with Interfax reaffirmed that Yeltsin would shortly discuss the Bosnian crisis with U.S. President Bill Clinton and other world leaders.

"We still believe there are chances to settle it by nonviolent means," Ryurikov said, citing the Russian Foreign Ministry's recent proposals for the demilitarization of Sarajevo. "It's along those lines that discussions should proceed," he said.

He expressed the hope that the incident in the Bosnian capital would bring it home to all parties to the conflict that "they should end their confrontation, which will be of no benefit to anybody, neither to the Serbs nor to the Croats nor to the Muslims, and which may provoke a negative reaction on the part of the world community."

Ryurikov was skeptical about the idea of making one of the parties a potential target for an air strike.

Kozyrev, Grachev Against Bosnia Air Strikes

LD0802214794 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1700 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Recently there has been no let-up in newspaper, television, or radio coverage of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Bosnian conflict. We could not fail to respond to this topic, especially since there are Russian servicemen in the former Yugoslavia, and if, after all, the decision is made that the Bosnian conflict will be tackled by military means, by means of bombardments, then it will be very difficult to predict both what Russia's position will be in the end and what in the end the position of our soldiers in former Yugoslavia. Today we present for your attention a commentary by our journalist Aleksandr Znamenskiy, who will tell you about the stance on this matter of the Foreign Ministry, specifically of Minister Andrey Kozyrev and of Russia's Defense Ministry, of Russian Military Department Head Army General Pavel Grachev. Aleksandr Znamenskiy is at the microphone:

[Znamenskiy] Bombing the positions of the warring sides in Bosnia is the least effective decision which could be made to wind up the crisis in the region, Andrey Kozyrev noted. He stressed that the UN resolutions theoretically provide for the possibility of military support of UN forces if they are subjected to direct attack. In this case the UN secretary general is to hold consultations with the permanent members of the Security Council, including Russia. Then we willl make a decision, the minister said. In particular, he said that in Russia such a decision will be taken by the president.

Kozyrev said that in the specific situation in Bosnia, it should not be a matter of launching strikes against the Serbs alone. One should be speaking of providing protection against attack from any side. As far as any other strikes are concerned which go outside the context of protecting UN forces, say, as punishment, we are categorically against strikes, even theoretically, Andrey Kozyrev stated. In this connection the minister expressed regret that the Russian initiative to convene the Security Council has not received proper support among the Western partners. In particular, this initiative provided for strengthening security zones, including round Sarajevo. It is possible that if it had been implemented earlier it would have been possible to avoid the tragedy.

The time has come for our Western partners in the Security Council to take a closer look at our proposals, Kozyrev stressed. The Russian minister said that it is necessary to take urgent measures, but not to fall into a trap. A provocation is possible from any side, the Russian minister stated. Once before, in 1914, a provocation was perpetrated in Sarajevo, when just such a territorial act caused a global tragedy. It is Andrey Kozyrev's view that now, too, an escalation of violence could lead to a repetition of this tragic scenario. The minister expressed the hope that the international community will be guided in this matter by cool political thinking and not by emotions. This was the point of view of the head of Russia's political department.

Regarding the Russian military, they virtually fully support it. However, taking into account the importance of the topic, we nevertheless asked Russia's Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev to say a few words in connection with this problem:

[Begin Grachev recording] The basic aim of the Russian leadership is that a unilateral approach toward determining the responsibility of the Bosnian communities for the continuation of the armed conflict is impermissible. In the interests of putting an end to it as soon as possible, Russia is trying to get and will try to ensure that sufficient influence is brought to bear not only on the leadership of the Bosnian Serbs but also on the leaders of the Croat and Muslim communities.

Now, as to the possibility of using military force: We believe that the use of the NATO countries' combat aviation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is capable of provoking a new escalation of combat actions and is permissible only in the event of a direct attack by Bosnian armed formations on the peacekeeping forces. Taking into account the complexity of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the dispatch of additional contingents from NATO countries into the conflict zone prior to the cessation of the combat operations could be used by the command of the Muslim community for building up their combat effort, which will inevitably provoke a further escalation of the Bosnian armed conflict. [end recording]

Vorontsov Prefers UN Control for Sarajevo

LD0902092194 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Yuliy Vorontsov, has proposed putting Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, under control of a UN administration, instead of hitting air strikes at positions of the Bosnian Serbs around it. After a closed-door meeting of the Security Council, Yuliy Vorontsov said

that under the Security Council's resolution, air strikes are possible only as a means of protecting the UN peacekeeping forces, but not as a means of punishing one of the warring Bosnian sides. [passage omitted]

Churkin Urges Serbian President To Lift Blockade

LD0902092994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0833 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York February 9 TASS— Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin called on the president of Serbia to promote an urgent lifting of the blockade of Sarajevo.

In a CNN interview, Churkin said he had a serious talk with Slobodan Milosevic, telling him that "we cannot put up with such a situation. The Sarajevo blockade should be lifted. And this must be done now".

At the same time CNN pointed out that the Russian deputy foreign minister said air strikes on Serbian troop positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina might "cast a shadow on Russia's relations with western countries."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives News Briefing

Comments on Sarajevo Tragedy

LD0802211894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The responsibility for the tragedy in Sarajevo cannot be laid on the Serbs, since "no one has proved that they are to blame for it yet," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mikhail Demurin, said at Tuesday's [8 February] briefing in Moscow.

According to him, in the present circumstances to launch air strikes on Serb positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina would be "the least appropriate solution."

With reference to the recent letter addressed by the UN Secretary General to NATO, Demurin said that it concerned primarily actions that lie beyond resolutions issued by the UN Security Council. "NATO's readiness to launch air strikes is one thing, and the taking of a political decision is another. This is a prerogative of the UN Secretary General in consultations with the Security Council, where Russia will necessarily have its say," he pointed out.

Views Partnership for Peace Program

LD0802185794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] In the next few days Russia's Foreign Ministry will hold consultations with a delegation of NATO experts concerning procedural issues connected with the "Partnership for Peace" [PFP] the foreign ministry's spokesman, Mikhail Demurin, said at Tuesday's [8 February] briefing in Moscow.

In answer to a question from Interfax's correspondent he emphasized that Russia's attitude to the "Partnership for Peace" idea is positive. As for the organizational side of this program, the NATO Council has approved a document on procedures connected with the "Partnership for Peace" program, and forwarded it to the embassies of countries involved in the North-Atlantic Council for Cooperation (NACC), and to Europe's neutral states, the diplomat said.

According to Demurin, those who drafted the document took into account the wishes of Russia, which called for developing partnership on the basis of the NACC, and for enabling neutral countries to join it as equitable members.

Says Position on Estonia Unchanged

LD0802213994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russia has not changed its position on troop withdrawal from Estonia, Mikhail Demurin, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing in Moscow Tuesday [8 February].

The ministry was surprised, he said, that the Estonian diplomats view the fact that the Russians have yet to submit a withdrawal timetable as linkage of the military issues with others such as social guarantees for Russian military pensioners who stay in Estonia.

Demurin recalled that from the outset of the talks the Russian negotiators insisted on a civilized solution for the 11,000 pensioners and their families (a total of 44,000 people - IF). In his words, what the Estonian authorities want boils down to removal from Estonia of a large number of military pensioners, most of whom are old people who have lived there for a long time.

"We reconfirm our resolve to withdraw Russian troops from Estonia in compliance with bilateral agreements which would provide a just solution to various problems, in particular the future of military pensioners," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized.

The 2500 Russian troops now stationed in Estonia are expected to be withdrawn before August 31, 1994.

Filatov Comments on Georgian Problems

LD0802220894

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1849 GMT on 8 February carries a program entitled "Behind the Letter of the Law," which is designed to provide a forum for

Sergey Filatov, head of Boris Yeltsin's administration, to explain the Russian president's decrees.

In the program, Filatov denies media reports that Georgians are not satisfied with the results of the Russian president's recent visit to their country, adding that more than 90 percent of Georgians welcome the new relations between Georgia and Russia. Filatov said that 300,000 Russians lived in Georgia and 150,000 have already fled the country; the Russian army and the Russian border guards there are not defended by any legal regulations.

Filatov goes on to say that Duma criticism of this visit was not "ethical," because President Yeltsin did say that the documents of the visit would not be ratified until political settlement is reached with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Referring to the issue of assistance in the establishment of the Georgian army, which Filatov describes as a sensitive issue where Abkhazia is concerned, Sergey Filatov says that "since Russia agreed with Georgia that we will have, as it were, a common border protection, both for Georgia and Russia and on the territory of Georgia, then it follows that we should jointly take care of the Russian and Georgian security interests alike and that is why there is an accord to set up three military bases on the territory of Georgia; it is precisely for this purpose and not for the purpose of occupation, as many say, but for the purpose, as it were, of preserving that state's security, and this includes the preservation of the security of the Russian state as well."

Filatov then reads out Article Three of the Russian-Georgian treaty: "The sides will take measures to implement effectively the agreement concerning the temporary stay of the Russian Federation military formations on the territory of the Republic of Georgia and they will also conclude—and here I stress that it does not say they have concluded already, but just that they will conclude—an agreement to render assistance in the establishment of the armed forces of the Republic of Georgia." Filatov says that the Russian press regards this as already done, alleging that such an agreement had already been signed. Not so, says Filatov, adding that this agreement also depends on the resolution of the South Ossetian and Abkhazian problems.

Asked by an unidentified interviewer about the economic aspects of Yeltsin's visit to Georgia, Filatov quotes Yeltsin as having said that "we would not take any steps which would be detrimental to Russia," and notes that he has nothing to add to that.

Asked why former finance minister Fedorov and former first deputy prime minister Gaydar were not included by Yeltsin in his decree on the composition of the Security Council, Filatov says that this consultative body was appointed by the president, and stresses the consultative nature of the council. By law, people would join the council by virtue of the posts they held and neither man could any longer be held to qualify.

In conclusion, Filatov says that he looks forward to the coming signing of the treaty on demarcation of federal powers with the Republic of Tatarstan, as part and parcel of the ongoing decentralization process.

Trade, Economic Accord Signed With Moldova

LD0802201194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The Prime Ministers of Russia and Moldova signed a trade and economic cooperation agreement for 1994 in Moscow on Monday [7 February]. According to Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's assessment, the accord rests on the universally accepted principles of civilized interaction and world prices.

As experts have explained to an Interfax reporter, the document only sets guidelines, as for the concrete volumes of supplies and the prices of commodities, they will figure in a supplement being drafted as part of the accord.

Chernomyrdin told journalists that the balance of trade with Moldova is "shaping up fine," with the republic paying up for all imports but fuel from Russia. He emphasized that if in 1993 the prices of fuel supplied to CIS countries had been fixed differentially, as of January of this year Russia has been selling fuel and other commodities to its Commonwealth partners at world prices.

Meanwhile, Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli has remarked in an interview with Interfax that the agreement offers solutions to the existing problems. In his words, Chisinau did not even request a rescheduling of its debt for a later date. (Interfax Note: By the end of January, Moldova incurred a 50 Bn ruble debt to the state-run "Gazprom" concern of Russia for gas shipments)

"Naturally, we will pay off the debts on the prices fixed in 1993," Sangheli noted and promised on his cabinet's behalf to square accounts next month. He reported that the mechanism of debt repayment had been devised along with "Gazprom," however, he declined to give any details on this system of mutual accounts.

'Mutual Respect' Urged in Baltic Dealings

PM0902114794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by Vyacheslav Yelagin; place and date not given: "National Interests in the Baltic Cannot Be Resolved Using the Language of Ultimatums. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin Answers ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's Questions"]

[Text] [Yelagin] Vitaliy Ivanovich, what do you see as the main cause of the difficulties in Russia's relations with the Baltic countries?

[Churkin] We believe that some Baltic politicians are making a serious mistake. Namely in thinking that the Baltic states' national interests can be realized through confrontation with Russia. Hence the endless appeals to the world community aimed at eliciting a sense of pity and compassion for small countries which are supposedly being hurt by their bigger neighbors. It is evidently purely domestic considerations and an attempt to obtain something for themselves that are behind this. However, the renaissance of the Baltic peoples is only possible if they build partnership relations with the Russian Federation. I hope that a sensible approach will ultimately prevail. Positive momentum can already be glimpsed in our relations with Lithuania.

[Yelagin] But how are the "sore points" in Russia's relations with the Baltic states being resolved? How justified are our northern neighbors' incessant accusations directed at us?

[Churkin] There are two problems. First, the troop withdrawal. Plenty has been done in this sphere. Today there are still around 13,000 Russian servicemen in Latvia and fewer than 4,000 in Estonia. In other words, the withdrawal has been 85 percent carried out. Our partners are for some reason losing sight of this. I would remind you that the redeployment of the Russian troop contingent began at these states' request without corresponding agreements being signed. We relied on their good will. Regrettably, that did not materialize. They have not had a good word to say for Russia, even though it is continuing the troop withdrawal amid a very grave economic situation. What is more, Estonia and Latvia occasionally make tougher demands. However, we are persisting with the policy of negotiations. It is important for these to culminate in the signing of appropriate agreements. The drafts have been almost 90 percent coordinated, among them a document laying down terms for retaining the Russian strategic installation at Skrunda.

The second problem is the position of the Russian and Russian-speaking population. This painful issue is the subject of our careful attention. During the interstate talks Tallinn and Riga are doggedly avoiding discussing the key subject of citizenship. And this procrastination is creating conditions for the nonindigenous population to be ousted. Despite the efforts of international rights organizations and recommendations from CSCE and Council of Europe experts, the Baltic countries' legislation still enshrines rules that discriminate against ethnic Russians. In Estonia, for instance, there are six laws of this kind pertaining to citizenship, language, and schools which are in one way or another injurious to the Russian-speaking population. And Latvia's Saeima recently adopted a law on the election of local self-government bodies robbing over 35 percent of the country's foreign inhabitants of their right to vote even at municipal level. That is tantamount to barring them from political life. We therefore reserve the right to raise this topic over and over in our bilateral contacts with Riga and Tallinn and also with international bodies. Naturally, strong-arm means of resolving the problem are precluded. The rule of law is the only option.

Lately Riga and Tallinn have been constantly reproaching us, saying that Russia links this issue with the troop withdrawal. We have not done that and have no intention of doing so, but we note Baltic politicians' promises that the position of the nonindigenous population will improve once the Russian troops are withdrawn, and will remind them of this at the right time.

[Yelagin] Could you comment on the Estonian side's territorial claims on a number of rayons in Pskov Oblast?

[Churkin] We know that Estonian representatives with semiofficial status are active in Pskov Oblast. They are insistently canvassing the local population to take up citizenship of the Estonian Republic and promising them some land or compensation for land. At the same time they do not forget to emphasize that these territories will shortly belong to Estonia. I do not think there is any need to explain the seriousness of these actions. Via diplomatic channels we have drawn Tallinn's attention to their inadmissibility. We must not be forced to take retaliatory steps and create additional irritants in Russian-Estonian relations. The question is simple: The territories belong to Russia.

[Yelagin] It is no secret that people in the Baltic display a pathological reaction to Russian politicians' use of the term "nearby foreign countries," considering it illegitimate with regard to these countries. What is your opinion?

[Churkin] Perhaps this term should not be used in official statements. But should anyone get aggrieved if it crops up occasionally? I think not. We are not after all equating our relations with the CIS states and the Baltic countries. There are definite differences here. The latter left the USSR earlier. They were not among the 12 states formed after the breakup of the former Union. They have no intention of becoming members of the CIS. Consequently we have a particular relationship with them. But because we lived in the same state for many years, we still have common problems. The use of this term does not imply an encroachment on any sovereignty, and that includes the Baltic.

[Yelagin] Your refusal to accept Russia's assumption of responsibility for the "Soviet occupation" of the Baltic caused a fairly stormy reaction in circles there. What is your opinion of those events from the viewpoint of international law?

[Churkin] They require evaluation from many angles. The Soviet troops were brought in and stayed in accordance with treaties with these states. The assent of these countries' top leaders to the troops' being brought in was

also obtained in 1940, albeit at the last minute. Thus, from the viewpoint of the international law both of that time and of the present, there are no grounds for talking about the USSR's armed incursion into the territory of the Baltic states and their subsequent occupation since, in addition, authority functions were exercised by national administrators.

It is appropriate to recall that the USSR Supreme Soviet's 1940 decisions admitting Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to the Soviet Union were preceded by corresponding political appeals from their supreme representative bodies. So we cannot talk about these countries' becoming part of the USSR as a result of the latter's unilateral actions. With this and the above arguments in mind, the entry of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia into the former Soviet federation cannot be described as annexation.

What is more, a concrete legal definition of any action can only be provided in the light of the law in force at the time when the said actions were committed. In this connection the claims regarding the illegality of the USSR's threatening force against the Baltic countries in 1939-1940 are, at the very least, contentious. Unlike present-day law, where the principle of nonuse of force and threat of force is fundamental, the international law in force prior to the adoption of the UN Charter contained no provision banning the threat of force.

Needless to say, a formal legal approach which is correct in terms of the past does not [illegible] in every respect with current moral and political or [illegible]me respects even legal assessments of events. Renewed Russia condemns the actions of the Stalinist regime. Russians suffered no less than the other peoples of the former USSR as a result. We cannot and did not agree with attempts to put present-day Russia in the dock by analyzing particular events in the past.

There have been many dark pages in history, but it is our common history and the problems inherited from it can only be resolved together, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. We urge our immediate neighbors to do this.

Kozyrev on Zhirinovskiy, 'Ethnic Cleansing' in Baltics

LD0802185394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The head of Russian diplomacy is not interested in what the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, says about Russia's foreign policy. Kozyrev has no intention of commenting on Zhirinovskiy's numerous statements. He urges public opinion "not to focus" attention on them. The foreign minister said so in a conversation with a group of journalists on the eve of his visit to Tashkent and Almaty.

As Kozyrev said, such attention "feeds the embryos of a furer [as received]" the LDP leader actually is. "If we begin to listen to what Zhirinovskiy says, and comment on his escapades, we'll have no time for anything else. As a result we'll find ourselves in a fantastic, not to say stupid, world," said Kozyrev.

According to him, Zhirinovskiy, with his discourse on the tasks of Russia's foreign policy, is reminiscent of a clown who "distorts reality." "In fact, this is what he is doing," Kozyrev pointed out.

Long before the emergence of Zhirinovskiy he, as Russia's foreign minister, raised the issue of "ethnic cleansings" taking place in some Baltic countries, particularly in Latvia and Estonia, he stressed. "About one-third of the population is mistreated on the basis of ethnicity. This relates to the Russian speakers—ethnic Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Jews and even Finns, who are denied the right to citizenship," the minister said. "They wish to receive such citizenship, but it is denied to them for only one reason, their ethnicity. If this is not ethnic cleansing, what is it?"

According to him, in some cases, in Bosnia-Herzegovina for instance, ethnic cleansing is expressed in the form of "criminal violence," and in other cases in the form of denying large groups of the population their civil rights, particularly the right to citizenship. "If—wherever this takes place—people are called "invaders" and "aliens," they begin to behave accordingly. A result of this is instability," Russia's foreign minister said.

He referred to one more example of how the rights of Russian- speakers are infringed upon. "In the former USSR everyone was obliged to undergo military service. Estonians and Latvians were no exception—they served in the Soviet Army. Now they want to evict from Estonia and Latvia not all the former Soviet servicemen, but only Russian-speakers. Obviously what underlies the demands for eviction is the ethnic, not political, principle," Kozyrev said.

According to him, "the attempts to take revenge on ordinary people for the crimes committed by the Stalinist regime reflect political foolishness." "I recognize that the Stalinist regime committed crimes, but one must not forget that they were committed by political powers—Stalin and Hitler—who concluded the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. To avenge these political crimes 45 years later on thousands of ordinary people, and use the ethnic principle when doing so, is inadmissible."

Russia, in the vicinity of whose borders such things are happening, cannot remain indifferent to them, Kozyrev stressed. "The world must pay attention to this inhumane and potentially dangerous situation," he concluded.

Zhirinovskiy Warns Czechs on Future, Assails Havel

LD0802210394 Prague CT 1 Television Network in Czech 1830 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Report on interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, by unidentified Czech television reporter in Moscow on 8 February, including recording of comments by Zhirinovskiy, in Russian with superimposed Czech translation]

[Text] [Reporter] This is the headquarters of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy confirmed to us today that he has indeed been invited to visit the Czech Republic by the Republican Party of the Czech Republic. According to Zhirinovskiy, so far they have received only a fax of the Republicans' invitation, and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia is waiting for the original of the invitation to arrive. Answering a question about what he thinks about negative reactions to the possibility that he would visit the Czech Republic, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said:

[Zhirinovskiy] If Vaclav Havel feels unhappy about my visit, then I am also unhappy about the fact that playwrights can become presidents of some countries. This is not right. I am not going to write stage plays, I am not going to write the Cherry Orchard if I am not Chekhov. Why, then, is a playwright a president? Your country is dying. I can assure you that in 10 years there will be no Moravia, no Sudeten. In 10 years the entire Czech nation will curse Havel as the Russian people are cursing Gorbachev. All, including me, used to applaude him—after Chernenko we saw Gorbachev as a good option. Nowadays we curse that villain.

The same situation will exist in your country. Vaclav Havel will die and in 10 years young Czechs will curse him. They will be forced to speak German, they will be forced to forget their mother tongue, they will be forced to attend Holy Mass in German churches and to clean the boots of German officers. This will be the Czechs' fate in a few years.

We do not want this. We intend to call a congress of Slavonic nations on 2 and 3 April. We are 300 million, we will live in our East European community and will not serve Western Europe.

[Reporter] Answering a question about his views on the possibility of an air strike against the troops shelling Sarajevo, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said:

[Zhirinovskiy] We oppose violence. To bomb Serbian towns is the same as bombing Russian towns. If this terrible thing takes place we will lodge our protest with the countries whose pilots get involved in the bombing. The same thing will consequently happen to their towns—bombs will fall on towns of the countries which attack Bosnia.

Moscow, Prague Cooperate in International Space Project

OW0902093694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 26 Jan 94

[By V. Lyubovtsev; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Upward to the stars. This slogan is apparently becoming quite popular in Czech science laboratories. It is nice to think that our country contributed in many ways to make this slogan a reality for the Czech Republic and its people. Details from our correspondent in Prague.

[Begin recording] [Lyubovtsev] Bench trials of a future satellite are being carried out at the Czech Academy of Sciences laboratory. It is hard to imagine just how far it will fly from this small laboratory—more than 200,000 kilometers into an orbit around the Earth. In tandem with another satellite—and there will be two such pairs—it will be part of the new international (Interbol) project designed to study the magnetosphere of our planet. The complicated internal workings of this piece of space apparatus have been prepared in the laboratories of 19 European countries. The main initiators of the project are Russia and the Czech Republic. Specialists from Poland, Germany, and France, together with our scientists are carrying out tests on the scientific instruments. It can be seen here that heavenly bodies are made by human hands and through the cooperation of entire collectives. Pavel Ceska, head of the project for the Czech side and chief coordinator of the work, is a world famous scientist.

[Ceska] This project is called (Interbol) and work on it has been going on since the early 1980's when planning and development of the project began. Our group from the Geophysics Institute was involved in the space research program right from the very beginning of the Interkosmos program, which began in 1967-68.

[Lyubovtsev] In other words, Nathan Andreyevich, you have very extensive experience in cooperation.

[Eysman] Yes, it goes back to the 1960's. Our Czech colleagues have installed quite a number of instruments in practically all of the international cooperation programs in which the Geophysics Institute took part. Naturally enough, however, our Czech colleagues made progress and began to develop and launch their own satellites with the aid of our launch vehicles.

[Ceska] This project includes all the international research, and global research into conditions for the preservation of life on our planet. [end recording]

Hokkaido, Russian Officials Discuss Economic Cooperation

OW0902070494 Moscow Voice of Russia in Japanese 1100 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Members of the Combined Committee for Economic Cooperation between Hokkaido and the Russian Far East are now meeting at a sea resort area in the suburbs of Sapporo, Japan.

Representatives of the local governments of the Coastal Region, Khavarovsk, and Sakhalin, and the central government's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Fisheries Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce are attending the meeting from Russia.

This Combined Committee was activated in 1992 to discuss promotion of economic relations between Hokkaido and neighboring Russia's territories at the proposal of the Hokkaido governor.

The working-level meeting held in the suburbs of Sapporo is a continuation of positive Russian-Japanese exchanges begun at various levels last week. In following with this current of the times, there are now formal and informal talks being held in Tokyo between the representatives of the foreign ministries, defense ministries, and border security-related offices of the two countries.

Yeltsin Adviser Views Political Developments

AU0802172694 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 5 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with Andranik Migranyan, political scientist and adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by Laszlo Vida in Moscow; date not given: "The Period of Euphoria Has Also Come to an End in Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The region of the post-Soviet states is the sphere of Russia's vital interests and, therefore, it is impossible to examine Moscow's relations with the "close foreign countries" according to general standards. This is how Andranik Migranyan described the Russian "Monroe Doctrine" that is increasingly penetrating even the official Russian foreign policy in his recently published essay. According to his own words, the well-known political scientist expressed his views as an "independent expert" in the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. However, given the fact that he is also a member of Yeltsin's group of advisers, his publications merit particular attention. First, we asked Professor Migranyan about the official reception of his essay.

[Migranyan] This writing met with an unfavorable reaction in the Foreign Ministry, but not because they do not agree with the essence of my thoughts, but because I criticized the Ministry and Andrey Kozyrev for not working out the government's foreign policy concept in time. Besides, the reaction to the subject matter of my writing also shows that the position of the Foreign Ministry leadership has gone through a firm evolution. Kozyrev's latest declarations in defense of the Russian minorities show that he wants to go even further in this direction and is trying to prove that he is a "hawk," a believer in tough solutions.

[Vida] Do you think that Kozyrev is capable of representing the emerging new Russian foreign policy? Not so long ago, he was still singing a different song altogether.

[Migranyan] Indeed, I also see a rather firm change in Kozyrev's attitude. To be honest, I could hardly tell whether he is capable of heading a foreign policy commensurate with the changed circumstances. My feeling is that, even if he tries to do it, the relevant domestic political circles will hardly take it seriously, because it looks as if he was simply clinging to his chair. All this also makes him less predictable for the West, which, naturally, would like to continue to negotiate with the previous Kozyrev whose position was clear and free of opportunism.

[Vida] If Kozyrev's constant claim that the president determines the country's foreign policy is true, everything you just said about him applies even more to Yeltsin.

[Migranyan] I think the president has the right to modify his course. However, in order to carry this out and to give a clear sign of this, he also has to carry out a personnel change at the leadership of the ministry.

[Vida] Judging from Western reactions to Gaydar and Fedorov's departure, Kozyrev's dismissal would cause a big stir, all the more so because the West, and particularly the United States, regards his presence as some kind of guarantee: As long as he is in place, there cannot be a too big problem.

[Migranyan] If the West made a case out of Kozyrev's replacement, this would only show its shortsightedness, because this would justify the anti-Western rhetoric of Yeltsin's opposition and, thus, it would only hit back at the West itself and, of course, at those who want to continue the reforms. The Ministry practically received a monopoly on shaping the Russian foreign policy from Yeltsin in the past two years, something not suprising if we consider the internal explosion danger he had to face and the fact that he has never dealt with foreign policy before. The Cold War is over, and friendly relations with the West must be built now with the end of confrontation and, obviously, Yeltsin had nothing against this. It is another matter what means can be employed to achieve all this. The president put Kozyrev in charge of the problem of the technical aspect and technology problems, and he supported him because the Western partners were satisfied with him. However, the times of euphoria have also come to an end in foreign policy, especially in the matter of illusions regarding the West. Central and Eastern Europe have slowly become sober, when Moscow was still speaking about an alliance with the West. It would have been quite strange to see this general enthusiasm justified, because politics is a "hard game" in which everyone follows his own aim, without any philanthropy.

[Vida] Do you think that the mentioning of the Russian sphere of interest raises certain apprehension in Western, Central, and Eastern European countries? This provides arguments to political forces who find it quite welcome that one can again speak of Russian expansion, for example, when talking about the need to expand NATO.

[Migranyan] Quite contrary. A failure to clearly determine Russia's interests would lead to misunderstandings. Every major power should clearly determine its zone of influence. A possible impression that Russia does not have individual interests at all would not be a good thing.

[Vida] In other words, Russia should be recognized as a major power.

[Migranyan] The Soviet Union had very clearly declared interests, complete with the means needed for the assertion of these interests. As the legal successor of the Soviet Union, Russia must again find its place in international politics. Uncertainty in this respect will only increase the camp of supporters of Zhirinovskiy and the like, and of communists, because their main complaint is that no one in the world counts on Russia any longer. Therefore, despite all their sympathy toward the West, the realists, and I am one of them, admit that we must clarify the things deriving from Russia's major power status. This is why I categorically oppose the demagogic practice of using the "Russian threat" to justify the need to expand NATO. Our former allies in Central and Eastern Europe are not led primarily by a real fear from Russia or the desire to join NATO; they are playing this card to join the Council of Europe as soon as possible and, in the meantime, to receive as many trade benefits and monetary injections as possible. We will not allow ourselves to be taken in by this demagogy. We can also mention Zhirinovskiy, because a few more such initiatives and power will fall into the arms of Zhirinovskiy.

I was one of those who publicly urged discarding the Brezhnev-doctrine, but one of our main arguments at that time was that no one wants to fill the vacuum left by the Soviet Union in Central and Eastern Europe. Such agreements emerged later. The German reunification did not take place in order to allow NATO to expand. The fact that Soviet Union collapsed does not exempt the West and the United States from the obligations they took upon themselves at the end of the eighties. One should not forget that, in the meantime, Russia got even farther from the region, and it has become weaker in every respect that the former Soviet Union. It is ridiculous to come up with the "Russian threat" today.

[Vida] One of the conclusions of your studies is that the post-Soviet region is the first test of the partnership relations between Russia and the West, where the West has to recognize Russia's special role. Has Clinton's visit given any hopes in this respect?

[Migranyan] The United States is exercising pressure on Ukraine in the nuclear arms affair. In Clinton's presence, Yeltsin made a tough statement about the situation of the Russian population in the Baltic states. They probably reached a certain agreement on the use of Russian troops as peace-keeping troops in the crisis points of the former Soviet Union: over the Caucasus, in Tadjikistan. It seems that the idea that Russia plays a particular role in guaranteeing stability in Euro-Asia is met with increasing support and understanding in the leading Western power.

[Vida] In your study, you repeatedly emphasized that the borders between the successor states, including Russia's borders, were determined artificially and they are far from being final. What do you suggest by this?

[Migranyan] Nothing more than the fact that, for the time being, we do not even know where Russia's borders lie: The situation of Chechnya, Tuva, Tatarstan, and Baskyria is flexible. The same way, Georgia's borders or Ukraine's borders are also unclear, because it has not been decided whether they will remain as independent states at all. The border issue first of all depends on this and, therefore, it would be too early to close the issue definitely. Because of the unsettled state of the successor states, the borders between them do not yet have the same function as the borders between other countries with many centuries of history.

[Vida] How do you envisage the future of the CIS?

[Migranyan] I am optimistic, because the latest reintegration process does not derive from subjective causes or the moods of a certain politician, but from objective factors. The former Soviet republics faced the fact that they are not expected anywhere and they have no place to join. Otherwise, they would not turn again toward Russia and toward one another. At the same time, Russia is not interested in forcing the reintegration process, because, with this, it would automatically take extra economic burdens upon itself. In my opinion, Moscow is absolutely aware of this.

Media Issues

Staff Threatens To Cut TV Broadcasts From 10 Feb

LD0802151594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1337 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Central Committee of the Trade Union of Communication Workers of Russia has sent a letter to Viktor Chernomyrdin, Aleksandr Yakovlev, and the communications minister, which says that the protracted financial crisis at communication enterprises responsible for the broadcasting of state radio and television programs is far from being solved.

Repeated written requests from the Finance Ministry for the debts to radio enterprises to be repaid remain nothing but scraps of paper. As a result of the communication enterprises' inability to pay for electricity and other materials, radio centers in Kamchatka, Kalinigrad and other areas have been cut off. Most of Russia's radio and television enterprises are on the verge of stoppage.

Unless the demands of communication workers are met, from 10 February only the transmission of morning and evening information programs from Ostankino and the All-Russian State Radio and Television Company will be provided.

Only Newscasts To Be Aired

LD0802183494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1549 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb—The Russian Federation Communications Union has warned the government and TV companies that "it will black out all TV programs except the morning and evening newscasts put out by Ostankino and the All-Russian State TV and Radio Broadcasting Company" from 10 February onwards. The blackout will continue until the state TV and radio companies pay all the debts they owe TV and radio transmission enterprises for 1993 and January 1994. The threat was contained in a statement issued today by the coordinating committee of workers employed at TV and radio transmitters in the Russian Federation. The statement has been sent to Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian government, to the Ostankino management, and to Russia's Communications Ministry.

The statement says this ultimatum is justified because the extremely acute financial crisis at transmission stations relaying state radio and TV programs has still not been resolved. The Finance Ministry has not settled debts owed to communications enterprises. Radio stations in Kamchatka, Kaliningrad, and other towns have already been silenced because transmitter stations cannot pay for electricity and other supplies. The majority of communications enterprises in Russia are on the brink of grinding to a halt.

The statement says, however, that the coordinating committee "considers it essential to maintain the intercity telephone network and to ensure that public information can still be broadcast, especially in emergencies."

Official Appeals for Solution

LD0802223894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Russian communications workers are threatening to limit transmissions on Ostankino TV and All-Russian State Radio and Television Company to morning and evening news programs starting 10 February. [passage omitted]

We have learned that Aleksandr Yakovlev, head of the Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service, has called a meeting of representatives on all sides to look for a solution following the ultimatum from communications workers. The meeting adopted a letter to the prime minister, stressing that allocation of money to clear the debts to the communications workers is a political more than an economic necessity. People should have access to news regardless, and the government should fulfill its obligations to the Communications Ministry and to state television and radio companies.

Nonpayment of Taxes Blamed

LD0802223294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By correspondent E. Guretskaya, including recording of remarks by Russian Television Director Oleg Popstov and an unidentified TV viewer; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] We have received a statement of the central committee of the Union of Communications Workers of Russia saying that from 10 February the Ministry of Communications can only guarantee the broadcasting of the news programs of Ostankino and Russia's Television, and that only in the morning and in the evening.

[Guretskaya] The first reaction of an ordinary TV viewer, a man in the street, to the prospect of facing a blank television screen was this:

[Unidentified speaker] They are just hooligans, I think this is absolutely outrageous!

[Guretskaya] Here is a reaction to the same by a professional, the chief of one of the state television companies.

[Poptsov] I think this is a natural action, a normal step to take, and it should not be called blackmail. This is not blackmail, this is a forced measure. Please understand: This is a cry, an appeal for help.

[Guretskaya] Last year the heads of the Communications Ministry, not without help from the heads of the TV and radio companies, prevented a general strike of communications workers eight times. But all things in this world

of ours are interrelated: We owe money to communications workers, they in turn to people in power engineering while the government owes money to them all. Everyone has turned out to be a bankrupt.

[Poptsov] Why do we have no budget? Because people don't pay taxes. There are no funds to make up a budget. Taxes are not being paid because the tax system is not functioning. The government which is unable to guarantee the implementation of its own decisions in fact dooms the very concept of statehood and legality to failure.

[Guretskaya] Oleg Poptsov has pointed out correctly that what the reactionary forces failed to achieve during the night of 3-4 October 1993—they failed to make TV screens go blank—can now be done without any great shocks. You simply stop paying money, and the screens go blank of themselves. Thus money—or, rather, the lack of it—is the cause of everything. Or maybe there is another cause?

[Poptsov] I am deeply convinced that there is a powerful lobby behind the idea of the shortening of broadcasting time. This force, acting behind the government's back, wants the state broadcasting reduced in order to get free space for themselves and wants the state to reduce and finally lose its interest in TV and radio broadcasting. Then some very different forces can enter that area and then, I am sorry to say, the state, the government, the president and the Duma will lose control of this country called the Russian Federation—or simply of Russia.

Official Comments on Media Access to Government

PM0802141394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with Vladimir Kvasov, leader of the Russian Government apparatus, by Ruslan Ignatyev under the rubric "Only in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA"; place and date not given: "Who Signed the Government Decision on Journalists"]

[Text] For almost a week now the newspapers, radio, and television have been commenting on the government decision restricting access to presidium sessions for journalists other than correspondents of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS.

It has also been reported that the leadership has revised its directive, however, and that the range of accredited publications has been enlarged.

Your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA special correspondent asked Vladimir Kvasov, leader of the Russian Federation Government apparatus, for an explanation.

[Ignatyev] Vladimir Petrovich, can we clarify matters here—did the government make the decision to which the mass media are alluding and, if so, who signed it?

[Kvasov] The government has not arrived at any decision or directive, even less a decree, which says that journalists are barred from attending presidium sessions. As a rule such questions are resolved in the course of work. There is no need for the corresponding documents on this score, and therefore there can be no signatures by members of the government. But statements of the type that the government has revised its decision are just insinuation.

[Ignatyev] Nevertheless, as we have already reported, such an order has come from you personally. A representative of the government press service told an ITAR-TASS correspondent about this. You then confirmed this fact for us. Has anything changed since then?

[Kvasov] No. I can repeat now that I gave only a verbal instruction that the system of journalists' accreditation should be regulated. The need for this arose when the government moved to its new address. The move caused a certain confusion for the work of a number of our services. As a result, people we did not know and complete outsiders began turning up to presidium sessions. The press published materials describing not the essentials of the presidium's work but mere intrigue. Furthermore, questions were assessed even though they were still at the discussion stage and decisions had not been made on them at the time.

[Ignatyev] Did such materials harm the government's work?

[Kvasov] These publications disinformed society, destabilized the situation in the country, and cast the government in an unfavorable light. A presidium session cannot be a public spectacle. And the presence of journalists, especially in large number, objectively introduces an element of theater to the proceedings. Normal and constructive work requires the appropriate conditions. Sometimes, however, a casual phrase uttered by someone at a presidium session is blown up into a real sensation in the press. This is why we want to instill proper order here. There is nothing scandalous about it.

[Ignatyev] But why were Russian Television [RTV] reporters not allowed into Government House last Saturday?

[Kvasov] I should think that, before guests come to visit you, they inform you first. That is the usual way of things everywhere. But to turn up without an invitation and then hammer on a locked door is stupid to say the least. Then to tell the whole country that journalists cannot get into the White House is tantamount to self-criticism and an admission of one's own helplessness. But to deal with specifics, the report on this subject in the Vesti newscast is typical first and foremost of the RTV leadership's work, namely, its inability to reach agreement with the relevant agencies on obtaining the necessary permission for filming. There is a definite procedure for this established in our country, just as there is in other civilized countries. It must be adhered to. For example, just you

try to get into a British Government session without an invitation and see what happens.

[Ignatyev] As far as is known, the government was at work on Saturday and discussed some serious issues....

[Kvasov] Yes, the government did work Saturday. However, no questions requiring urgent and broad coverage in the mass media were examined. Admittedly, that is my view. But if journalists consider it necessary to report on this or that problem they can get all the necessary materials and commentaries from our press service.

[Ignatyev] Does your restriction on the presence of representatives of certain publications, news agencies, and television at government sessions not contravene the Law on the Mass Media?

[Kvasov] I would remind you once again that there is no ban. In response to new applications from this or that publication, agency, or radio and television editorial office, lists will be compiled and journalists will be accredited accordingly. But it is not our intention to admit or bar particular correspondents. In other words, this is not a question of the right to obtain information but of the mechanism whereby that information is obtained. The Russian Federation Government's press service, headed by Valentin Mikhaylovich Sergeyev, deals with the work of that mechanism. How that service works is another question. Clearly we must investigate this properly. And is it not clear why the government press service did not grant the relevant materials to RTV when it came to Government House Saturday? Well, that question is probably one for us to deal with. I believe we will be able to answer it in the near future.

Political Issues

Gaydar Urges Reformers To Coordinate Efforts

LD0802194394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1839 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belsky]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Leader of the Russia's Choice State Duma faction Yegor Gaydar urged today Russian democratic and reform organizations to pull their efforts in the upcoming local elections. Otherwise the spring elections may result in the revival of camouflaged Soviets, says Gaydar's statement.

In the opinion of Gaydar, it is necessary to elaborate a joint strategy for the election campaign in the next two or three weeks.

It would be good to agree on the following principle: one candidate of all democratic and reform forces to one mandate, he said. Gaydar also suggested an agreement on quotas for each regional reform organization as pre-election tactics. The quotas can be based on the electors' support to democratic electoral coalitions in regions. The principle can be made all-Russian and then specified at joint consultations.

Gaydar is ready to insist on quotas in favor of new progressive trade unions, business and workers' organizations and independent professional candidates.

Russia's Choice Member Discusses Faction

LD0802202194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1754 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Gleb Yakunin, deputy of Russia's State Duma, who is a member of the "Russia's Choice" faction and co-chairman of the "Democratic Russia" popular movement, spoke at length about the situation inside the faction to ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

Yakunin described the situation inside "Russia's Choice" as generally normal. According to him, the faction is unlikely to split, even though its members differ in their stand both toward the Russian Government and the possibility of the bloc's transformation into a political party.

He deems it inevitable that the bloc should re-evaluate its values in view of its defeat at the December elections.

A number of the bloc's members would like to form a rigid party led by Yegor Gaydar, whereas their opponents inside the bloc would rather form a broader popular anti-fascist, anti-totalitarian movement based on "Russia's Choice" and "Democratic Russia".

"Democratic Russia" is to decide on the issue at the session of the council of representatives on February 25-26 and then at the forthcoming congress of the movement.

Personally, Yakunin does not approve of the idea to form a political party, because he thinks it impossible to produce a larger party than the Party of Russian Unity and Accord or the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms.

He was also critical of the idea to create a "presidential" party. According to him, it would be impossible for the president to form a party without involving the nomenklatura or the Soviet-style privileged establishment, which is celebrating its victory these days.

Such a party could be worse than the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, he said.

Both "Russia's Choice" and "Democratic Russia" direct their activities at preparations for the 1996 elections, he said.

As to the forthcoming elections to the local governments, "Russia's Choice" has in fact too little time to make due

preparations. We cannot but ignore insignificant programme differences and we call on all the democrats to join together, he said.

Touching on his faction's stand toward the government, Yakunin remarked that the representatives of "Democratic Russia" were still taking a very tough stand, although the two political allies seemed so far to share the general principle: to support positive initiatives of the government while remaining in opposition to it.

According to Yakunin, Yegor Gaydar takes a more restrained stand, though he also criticizes the government.

In Yakunin's opinion, it is unlikely that the "Russia's Choice" faction should split for this reason: The faction cannot afford such a "luxury" in view of the difficult political situation.

Formation of Presidential 'Super-Party' Goes Ahead

MK0902103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 2

[Gleb Cherkasov report in the "Party Building" column: "The President Will Soon Have His Own Party. It Will Advocate 'Moderate Reformist' Positions"]

[Text] Each political crisis in Russia over the past few years has invariably been accompanied by rumors, talk and "fairly authoritative" statements about the creation of a certain pro-reform "super-party" led by Boris Yeltsin. Moreover, the president himself has repeatedly stressed the need for forming such a structure. As a rule, things did not move beyond the talking stage. Now, however, rumors about a "presidential party" seem to be materializing.

The formation of the "super-party" will be the concern of regional "committees in support of the Russian Federation's first president," advocating "moderate reformist-democratic positions," and structures of the President Foundation led by well-known democratic movement activist Lev Shemayev. No doubt, the president's administration and some executive power structures will also make a contribution to creating a presidential party. According to Nikolay Medvedev, chief of the Russian Federation presidential administration's Directorate for Liaison with the Territories, some time at the end of February the groups taking the initiative on founding a presidential party will hold their first meeting in Samara. It will be attended by representatives from Samara, Ulyanovsk, Saratov, Penza, Volgograd, Ryazan, and Moscow. In particular one of the delegates from the Moscow branch will be the president's representative in Moscow, Vladimir Kamchatov, who was unsuccessful in contesting a seat in the Federation Council. In Shemayev's opinion, the Samara conference will become the first stage in the formation of grass-roots structures of the presidential party.

According to Shemayev, the main task of the future party is to look for an idea capable of rallying all the healthy forces in Russia. This idea will serve as a basis for the party program, while the program itself is most likely to be of an economic rather than political character, presenting a concept for the country's economic development for the next 10 to 15 years.

It is expected that along with rank and file members, representatives of the enterprise directors corps and of banking and commercial structures will also join the party. Medvedev did not rule out that the centrist-minded members of democratically oriented parties and movements, including Russia's Choice, may "insist that their programs be adjusted in line with the current political and economic realities," as a result of which part of the pro-reform association participants may affiliate with the presidential party. At the same time Lev Shemayev said he doubted that such politicians as Gennadiy Burbulis, Sergey Shakhray, or Arkadiy Volskiy will have anything to do with the leadership of the future super-party.

According to Lev Shemayev, the emerging party is going to nominate Boris Yeltsin as candidate in the next presidential elections.

The leadership of the majority of democratic parties and movements has so far not reacted in any way to the possible appearance of a presidential party. Meanwhile Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, noted that the only way to ensure the speedy creation of the presidential party is to organize the entire vertical executive structure as a party structure. According to Shakhray, such a course of events can lead to "purges" in the state apparatus and a weakened executive branch.

Shakhray Moves To Create Pro-Government Coalition

MK0802113094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 3

[Olga Garbuzova report: "Sergey Shakhray Press Conference. Minister Announces Creation of Pro-Government Coalition"]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, minister for nationalities and regional policy affairs, intends to create, on the basis of his party, a centrist coalition to form firm support for Viktor Chernomyrdin's government. That the creation of such a conservative association was necessary was stated by Shakhray at a meeting of representatives of regional organizations of his party on 5 February. The creation of the new political structure has already begun. Yesterday, Sergey Shakhray held first talks on this topic with leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia.

In the wake of radical democrats' actually having joined the opposition to the present government, the Party of

Russian Unity and Accord, led by two ministers—Sergey Shakhray and Aleksandr Shokhin—became a loyal ally of Viktor Chernomyrdin's cabinet. The political weight of this party in the present parliament, however, is not too great. Its faction currently is made up of as little as some 30 deputies—all members of the party at that. The New Regional Policy faction is the main political ally of Shakhray's party in parliament, but so far they have not fully agreed to coordinating their positions.

Still, Shakhray does not seem to have given up hope that it would soon be possible to create a coalition of 110 to 130 State Duma deputies, including members of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord faction, to form a reliable support for the present government. At any rate, this was what Sergey Shakhray declared on Saturday at the meeting with representatives of his party's regional organizations.

To all appearances, Sergey Shakhray intends to form the pro-government coalition at a rapid pace both inside and outside the parliament. Already yesterday, these questions were discussed in his meeting with chiefs of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. This haste is quite understandable. Indeed, some leaders of Russia's Choice—Mikhail Poltoranin, for example—are on record as having stated that the fall of the current government is a matter of months. Last week's meeting of the Democratic Russia coordination council discussed the possibility of holding mass actions to demand the resignation of Chernomyrdin's cabinet.

The key task of the new centrist entity is supposed to be to avert the threat, in the coming spring, of yet another political crisis. Meeting representatives of his party's regional branches, Shakhray issued a warning that by spring the readiness to strike in many regions would create a political background that would cause a sharper crisis in the government and the State Duma.

On the other hand, Shakhray thinks, there may develop a political confrontation between the State Duma and the president which would most likely pick up depending on the decisions and laws made by the Duma. All these factors, as well as the "interethnic situation," Shakhray thinks, are going to create a "cumulative effect" in May. It is for this reason that the new centrist pro-government bloc should take final organizational shape by that time.

Presidential Administrative Reform Analyzed

MK0902114594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Vera Selivanova report in the "Apparatus" column: "Yeltsin in Gorkiy-1994. An Administrative Reform in the Kremlin: All Information Provision Departments Will Be Abolished"]

[Text] While observers' attention is centered on the ongoing reorganization of the government and the replacement of "shock monetary" reforms by "non-shock and non-monetary" ones, the gradual reorganization of presidential structures is successfully and inconspicuously coming to an end. According to information in possession of SEGODNYA, a corresponding presidential edict may be signed before the end this week.

The latest variant for the organization of these structures to be approved by the edict bears the obvious marks of behind-the-scenes struggle. The new scheme for the presidential structure enshrines the effective exclusion of the power ministries and the Foreign Affairs Ministry from the government and their inclusion into the presidential administration. Furthermore, its most characteristic feature is the emergence of a "dual power" situation within the presidential administration: Viktor Ilyushin, the president's first aide, is equated in his "weight category" with the figure of the presidential administration chief. Consequently, the first aide, who in the new hierarchy is above the Security Council secretary and power ministers, emerges from a formally secondary figure into a full-fledged official.

The presidential structures plan originally envisioned that the Analytical Center, the president's business management, the State Legal Directorate, and the Oversight Directorate would pass under the control of his first aide. The administration chief's jurisdiction was to include the remaining "vital" services, such as departments within presidential commissions, departments on matters of citizenship, state awards, pardons, and so forth.

The latest version of the plan features a number of minor but—from the inner-party viewpoint—extremely important provisions. Separation of powers in the administration leadership has not been delineated so clearly as in the past (which leaves room for apparatus improvisations). Furthermore, the new plan has obviously reflected the results of behind-the-scenes bargaining between the administration and the president's first aide.

The new version does not provide for the president's national security adviser—a relatively independent post currently occupied by Yuriy Baturin. Presidential regional representatives have been moved from the jurisdiction of the administration chief "under the first aide." The leadership of the State Legal Directorate and the Oversight Directorate has been formally removed from the control of the first aide and placed under the president: the question about their jurisdiction has therefore been left open. And finally, the Information Resources Directorate (IRD) has been abolished within the presidential administration while its remains are to be transferred to the Federal Government Communication and Information Agency under the president (FGCIA).

After a year and a half in the shadows, Viktor Ilyushin officially legitimates his first role in the president's entourage. This is not only a matter of a clash of personal

ambitions by the first aide and the presidential administration chief, who does not have such close contacts with the apparatus, but a tough political struggle under the table.

The direction and meaning of this struggle are reflected most conspicuously in the fact that FGCIA (a former government communications committee under the USSR KGB) has successfully "swallowed" the last relatively independent information provision service in the presidential structures—the Information Resources Directorate. The easy and generally accessible information channels created by IRD allowed the presidential team to establish effective interaction with the regions during the crises in August 1991 and in April and September 1993. This was especially important in the situation when some former KGB generals who came to head the "renewed" federal agencies showed a propensity for "falling sick" on 21 September, "getting lost" immediately after the order arrived on disconnecting communication channels in the White House, and playing a double game with Rutskoy and Khasbulatov till the last moment.

FGCIA has taken repeated steps to assume control of the entire "policy in the information provision sphere" in Russia. As of the moment IRD is abolished, FGCIA—a former specialized subdivision of the secret police designed to ensure confidential communication channels (the "hot line" and so forth)—officially takes control of information provision, including open information channels of all state structures: the Federal Assembly, the government, and the presidential administration. The secret police information services did not enjoy such powers even in the Soviet period, when they could so easily disconnect the USSR president from running the country.

According to some sources, the backstage changes in the presidential circles reflect the general trend: After two years of painstaking work to overcome the undesirable consequences of the August 1991 events, the "underground Sverdlovsk [Yeltsin's home base] Obkom" in the Kremlin, in close contact with the "underground Gazprom" in the White House and other such like structures, is finally restoring both informational-political and organizational control over Russia's top state leadership. Invaluable assistance in this undertaking is coming from the still intact "democratic administrators": Against the background of their get-together in the Kremlin, the "obkomists'" teamwork and cohesion produces a particularly strong impression and leads to especially effective results. According to a source, the best analogue for the incumbent democratic leadership in the presidential administration is the White Rabbit and his administrative team in the entourage of the Queen from Alice in Wonderland. Frenetic activity with zero (if not negative) effect may help forget for a while that what is happening is a mere deck of cards being reshuffled by quite other players.

The mechanism for making major decisions by the president is rather peculiar because it envisions the possibility of making last- minute adjustments, from slightly changing the essence of the decisions made to reversing them. Therefore the impending comprehensive informational-political and organizational isolation of the president by his apparatus is rather reminiscent not of Foros-'91, but Gorkiy-'23 [Lenin's last retreat].

Poll Results Indicate Local Election Preferences

MK0802114094 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Savelyev, All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion sociologist, under the "Sociology" rubric: "Another Election on the Way"]

[Text] In a survey conducted by the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion in the second half of January, approximately 1,600 adult urban residents of the Russian Federation answered the question: "With the upcoming elections for local bodies of power, whom are you going to vote for in these elections: democrats, communists, Agrarian Party representatives, V. Zhirinovskiy's party, or some others?" The answers in percentage points are as follows:

Democrats—26
Communists—8
Agrarian Party—6
Zhirinovskiy's party—9
An independent candidate—12
Someone else—5
Not going to vote—14
Hard to say—20

Those going to vote for democrats are, more often than not, entrepreneurs, managers of various ranks, specialists, students, and men generally, persons below 40 with a secondary and higher education, with an income per one member of the family of more than 48,000 rubles a month, and those who voted for Russia's Choice, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, and the Democratic Party of Russia.

Those who want to elect communists, more than others, to local bodies of power are executives, pensioners, and generally women, persons above 50 with a per capita income of less than 30,000 a month, and those who voted for the Russian Federation Communist Party.

Those wishing to vote for representatives of the Agrarian Party are mostly pensioners, workers and men generally, persons of above 55 with an education of less than secondary and an income of 30-45,000 rubles who voted for the Agrarian Party and the Yavlinskiy bloc.

Those going to vote for Zhirinovskiy's party candidates are most often military men and militiamen, workers, men on the whole, persons below 25, and between 40 and 54 years of age with an education of less than secondary

and an income of less than 30,000 and of more than 65,000 rubles, who already voted for this party on 12 December.

Those who prefer to vote for independent candidates are more often than not specialists, executives, and generally persons between 25 and 39 years of age with a higher education and an income of more than 65,000 rubles, and who voted for the Women of Russia and for the Yavlinskiy bloc.

Those who are not going to the elections for local authorities are mostly military men and militiamen, students, the unemployed, and those polled of under 25 years of age and with an education of less than secondary and an income of up to 30,000 rubles, and those who did not go to the last polls, or who voted "against everyone."

Chernomyrdin Denies Reform Policy Abandoned

LD0802154494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has strongly rejected accusations that his government is abandoning its policy of reform.

"From the storm and stress of the first few years of reforms, we are going over to more thorough constructive work, which involves deeper structures and institutions of the economy. The government should be up to this work, and therefore it has taken a somewhat new form," Chernomyrdin said at a meeting in the Interior Ministry on Tuesday.

"The president's policy of deep-going democratic reforms in Russian society, in its economy and political institutions will be continued and will be aimed at meeting the strategic interests of Russia," the prime minister said. He said only the president and Constitution, not any of the present or former members of government, were guarantors of the reforms, which meant the demands for the revision of that policy were aimed against the president rather than the government, he said.

"I am proud that I come from the 'Red' enterprise managers. What is really bad is that those who are now seeking power have no experience and would run experiments on the whole country," Chernomyrdin said to the stormy applause of his listeners.

He admitted that the previous month had been marked by a new serious bout of inflation. He said inflation and the present grave financial situation were the number-one problem for the government, which would focus on "a reasonably tough policy of financial stabilization and measures to curb inflation as much as possible."

The premier said the government would tightly control budgetary expenditures this year. "Most of the promises will be kept," and the government is determined to pay all its debts for 1993, he said. "The people will understand that we finally have to live within our means. The government will no longer deceive or delude anyone," he said.

Illarionov Dismissed Because of Unapproved Absence

LD0802160094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian government's spokesman told Interfax that Andrey Illarionov was removed from the post of head of the government's group for analysis and planning by Viktor Chernomyrdin on February 7 for violating labor discipline.

The government's personnel department stated that from January 17 to 20 Illarionov did not report to work and that he refused to give any explanations. It turned out that during that time he was giving lectures in Britain without informing the government about this.

Illarionov's statement that he resigned because he did not support the government's policies was an attempt to conceal the real cause of his dismissal, said the government's spokesman.

New Yeltsin Aide Satarov Profiled

LD0802161594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1231 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Georgiy Satarov, appointed presidential aide here today, is taking office not at a time when he could be congratulated on his new job. He will be faced with the far from easy task of promoting "on behalf of the president" proper interaction among the chambers and factions of the new Russian parliament, which has already proved to be an independent political force.

As a matter of fact, the 46-year-old scholar has sufficient experience in dealing with political leaders of different leanings. As director of the Russian Socio-Political Centre, he was able to find common language with the Communists, with Baburin's Russian National Union, with Nikolay Travkin's party, whose headquarters are under the centre's roof.

The "naturalistic-experimental interest" of this scientist, who is, moreover, a member of the Presidential Council, in all the "sectors" of the political spectrum was not always adequately received within President Yeltsin's administration. This is why Satarov had to publicly explain that the state was interested in interaction with all the political parties and movements, because they represent a channel for promoting a dialogue between the authorities and the society.

Being concurrently director-general of the Centre for Applied Political Studies—Indem (Informations for

Democracy), Candidate of Technical Sciences Georgiy Satarov has also proved to be a remarkable sociologist. His scientific works on the balance of political forces within the Congress of People's Deputies of the former Russian Supreme Soviet, which were repeatedly published in the magazine "Russian Monitor", give reason to assert that Satarov will apparently display an equally correct approach to the forecasting and analysis of the current parliament's work.

It is indicative that the president is gradually giving up the practice of inviting politically engaged people, who, while at the helm of power, cared mostly for their own career, but began to oppose Yeltsin the very minute they were deprived of it. Satarov's appointment as presidential aide (new decrees are expected to be issued to include in the presidential administration other members of the Presidential Council from among independent scientists) differs positively also from the latest personnel changes within the government.

President Yeltsin publicly stated last year that he would "fire" Satarov for disagreeing with the timing of the next presidential elections. The ideas of this member of the Presidential Council, which proved necessary during the compilation of the new Russian constitution and during the preparation of the presidential message to the parliament, have apparently "outweighed" the president's erstwhile anger, and one more outstanding personality was added to the group of the presidential aides.

Zhirinovskiy on Aspirations To Become President

AU0702140594 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 7 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with Russian Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy by Marianne Sajdik; place and date not given: "They Can Eat Their Dumplings in the Dark"]

[Text] [Sajdik] How would you describe the current situation in Russia?

[Zhirinovskiy] I can see the situation in Russia only in a positive light: Ahead of us are the end of the crisis and the renaissance of Russia. The reformers have declared their bankruptcy, which is unpleasant for the West. Our policy is based on the equality of all forms of ownership, state or private. We would change the tax system in favor of the producers. We will end state and criminal blackmailing. We will reconstruct economic relations with the regions and end the war in the south. Conversion will be stopped. The plants that now have to produce canteens for 2,000 rubles apiece, which nobody needs, instead of submarines will go back to producing submarines. Western aid is nothing but provocation and hypocrisy. Foreigners are only a nuisance and not helpful. We will chase them away. Foreign politicians are honest in the way they treat us. They all hate Russia. We will help ourselves.

[Sajdik] How are your relations with the Russian president?

[Zhirinovskiy] My relations with Yeltsin are good. Now and then we meet for a game of checkers or play volleyball. He is a good man, I like him. He is calm and quiet. I do not mind him at all. He was deceived by radical reformer Yegor Gaydar and his people. He thought that their plans were good—but everything failed. Now he is trying to neutralize the consequences of the activities of Gaydar and reformer Gennadiy Burbulis.

They are to blame for the destruction of the USSR and the creation of the CIS. Yeltsin is now embarrassed that he believed them. If I were him, I would have chased all of them out of the country or thrown them into prison. Yet, Yeltsin is a good man. However, I will not leave them alone but call them to account. They are afraid of me, which is why they call me "fascist" all the time.

[Sajdik] What are your plans for the future?

[Zhirinovskiy] I want to become president. The parliamentary group does not offer any possibility to implement my program. As president the constitution gives me maximum powers and I can fulfill my promises. Yeltsin will not run again, and the people that have so far forced themselves to the foreground—Sobchak, Volskiy, Gaydar, Yavlinskiy, and Travkin received less than 10 percent in the election. So I cannot see any opponent.

[Sajdik] What is your program?

[Zhirinovskiy] I will concentrate on improving the living conditions of the Russians without getting rich myself. The others did nothing but steal: money was transferred to Western banks, children sent to school abroad, villas and limousines, everything achieved through fraud. Now they are leaving the sinking ship like rats. They cannot pay the price that I am asking—the new Russia.

[Sajdik] What will your new Russia look like?

[Zhirinovskiy] Ukraine will always be a part of Russia, in the same way in which the Crimea is Russian. I would not stop western Ukraine from seceding and becoming a small republic. Then they can eat their dumplings in Lvov but (gets up and turns out the light) in the dark because they will not get any more electricity. That will then be the end of Ukrainian nationalism. Yet, we will not take them back; the Germans or Swedes can feed them through. (turns on the light again)

[Sajdik] What does democracy mean for you?

[Zhirinovskiy] Democracy means that the majority makes a decision but not without taking the interests of the minority into account. We Russians take the decision to make the former borders of the USSR the borders of Russia yet we do not ignore the minority. The Estonians do not want that, which means that the Estonians will

live in Tallinn—in a mini-republic like Monaco or Andorra—but without Russian raw materials, light, energy, and cars.

[Sajdik] You do not have a good press. Do you mind?

[Zhirinovskiy] Nobody writes the truth about me. If you dare, write that Zhirinovskiy is a good, highly educated man, who got his diploma with distinction, knows four foreign languages, does not drink and does not smoke. Yet this is not what you are paid for. One has to write the opposite: Zhirinovskiy is a bad man, an anti-Semite, and a fascist.

Coup Defendant Denies Treason Charges

LD0802164794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] A member of the State Committee on State of Emergency, Oleg Shenin, currently on trial, categorically refutes the accusations of high treason and participation in the plot aimed at overthrowing the legitimate power.

He said during the legal proceedings in Moscow on Tuesday that his guilt was that he had failed to prevent the collapse of the USSR as a Soviet citizen and a communist.

According to Shenin, the real coup d'etat started not on August 19, 1991, but on April 24, 1991, with the signing of the draft treaty on establishment of a union (the Novoogarev agreement "9+1") and finished on December 8, 1991, with the agreement on establishment of the CIS. According to the accused, "this has broken the balance of forces and has been inevitably leading to the third world war, which is now at hand."

The issue on renewal of the case against Oleg Baklanov deferred due to his illness was also raised during the proceedings. However, this issue's consideration was postponed.

Shenin Assails Gorbachev Inaction

LD0802181694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] A former member of the CPSU'S Central Committee, Oleg Shenin, who is standing trial for having plotted the August 1991 coup attempt, maintains that what prompted the coup was "the inconsistent, cowardly and concessionary policy" pursued by the last Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Gorbachev knew that Boris Yeltsin, as President of the Russian Federation, had no intention of signing the Union Treaty on August 20, 1991, and that he was about to liquidate union structures, Shenin told the Military Collegium of Russia's Supreme Court on Tuesday. According to the former Central Committee member, Gorbachev informed him of this in a telephone conversation on July 29, 1991.

"The Soviet Union's disintegration could have been prevented had Gorbachev imposed a state of emergency himself, instead of letting others do it," Shenin said. However Gorbachev preferred to sit it out in Foros, and refused to be flown to Moscow, Shenin declared.

According to Shenin, Gorbachev had nothing against the imposition of a state of emergency. "The wrong people are now charged with high treason," he said.

The court adjourned until Friday morning.

Experts Decide Scientist Did Not Reveal Secrets

LD0902115194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The conclusion of the experts has been announced at the closed sittings of the trial of the scientist Vil Mirzoyanov. Two of the three experts arrived at the conclusion that the defendent did not reveal information that constituted a state secret.

Economic Issues

Shokhin Proposes 'Rigid Financial Stabilization'

LD0802201294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin stated that the Cabinet's main task this year was to combine a moderately rigid financial stabilization scheme with selective stimulation of individual industrial branches.

He said that if a moderately rigid credit and financial policy is pursued, the state budget deficit will stand at 7-7.5% by the end of the year compared to the Gross Domestic Product, while the monthly inflation rate will be at 7-9%.

He said that the year 1994 must become decisive in the implementation of the radical economic reform. If the government fails to make achievements in the priority economic branches by controlling budget spending, the forecasts for the size of the budget deficit in 1995 will not come true, he said.

On Tuesday, Shokhin addressed the congress "Reality and Prospects for Russia's Economic Development." This forum's organizing committee is chaired by Secretary of the Russian Federation's Security Council Oleg Lobov, while the event itself was prepared by prominent economists Nikolay Petrakov, Leonid Abalkin and Stanislav Shatalin. The economists participated in the preparation of a report entitled, Socio-Economic Reforms in Russia; the Current Situation and New Approaches.

Anther author of the report, Stanislav Assekritov, vice president of the Reform International Foundation, expects the report to be discussed by the government at its meeting on February 24. He believes the document has much in common with the position of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who, he said, might "disown the results of the two years of shock therapy" at that meeting.

So far neither Chernomyrdin nor President Boris Yeltsin have responded to the report, said Assekritov, who doubts that the prime minister would make a public statement of his socio-economic position before Yeltsin gives his message to parliament on February 18. Only after that "will Chernomyrdin either do what the president would like him to or will just be swiping around," Assekritov said.

He said another two reports had been sent to the premier, one of them written by former Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev, today a member of the State Duma, where he represents the Democratic Party, and the other by economist Yevgeny Saburov, economics minister in Ivan Silayev's government.

Yeltsin Says State Aid to Farmers Insufficient

LD0902102994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0911 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb—"Farmers' main concern today is to feed the country. Private farmers have already achieved a significant success in the past few years. Your products are more and more noticeable on the Russian table," says the greeting sent by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the delegates of the congress of the Association of Peasant Holdings and Cooperatives of Russia (AKKOR).

I fully realize that had the state rendered more substantial support to farms, their output would have been much more substantial too, says the greeting, released today by the president's press service.

"Farmers are becoming a noticeable and influential force in Russian society," the document emphasizes. "Remarkably, thousands of officers and warrant officers in reserve have received land plots. The time when you have only been posing problems is coming to an end. The main thing now is to find most effective solutions, together with the authorities, together with all those who want to help Russian agriculture."

Moscow Allocated R550 Billion for Foodstuffs

LD0802202694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2005 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian government has appropriated 550 billion rubles for Moscow to buy foodstuffs, Konstantin Buravlyov, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Moscow city government in charge of economic reforms, told Interfax.

"Starvation became a real threat in Moscow at the end of the last year and in the beginning of this year," Buravlyov admitted. He said that Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov had succeeded in persuading the central government that the situation with essential supplies to the capital was critical. "The president and the prime minister had to intervene to remedy it," Buravlyov said.

In his words, 300 billion rubles were made available to the city to buy foodstuffs during the year at the current Central Bank discount rate. The only benefit Moscow will enjoy is that it will have to pay the credit back in the period from September to the end of 1994.

The government appropriated another 250 billion rubles for purchases of foodstuffs if other regions fhicf demand prepayment, Buravlyov explained. He also said that the food processing sector which needed raw materials accounted for one third of all of Moscow's industry.

At the same time, the Russian government owes Moscow 145 billion rubles in mutual tax settlements.

Cutting Back Oil Exports Under Consideration

LD0802180294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russia is determined to stimulate world oil prices, a high-ranking source close to the Russian government told Interfax.

Government experts do not rule out the limitation of Russian oil exports for attaining this goal. They believe that "concern about falling prices in oil, Russia's main export item, has put us on a par with the OPEC countries."

The official said that according to Russia's sources, the OPEC countries are ready to brush away old disagreements and take coordinated measures to raise prices by $1 or $2 a barrel in the near future.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Minister for Fuel and Energy Yuri Shafranik told the recent economic forum in Davos that Russia and OPEC would pursue a coordinated policy to increase oil prices by at least $1 a barrel.

The government sources point out that Russia may ensure a rise in oil prices by limiting its exports of crude oil. Experts of the Economics Ministry believe that in order to attain the set goal, Russia will have to cut down oil exports by at least 8

in the first quarter of the year on the condition that the OPEC states do the same. In their opinion, Russia is most likely to reduce oil exports to the former Soviet republics.

In 1993, Russia exported more than 80 million tons of oil to foreign countries. The coordinated oil export quotas for enterprises and territories for the first quarter of the year amount to 24 million tons. During the first three months of 1994, Russia will export a total of about 30.2 million tons of oil.

Moscow Mayor Rejects Privatization Program

LD0802154894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov stated that the city authorities would not implement the privatization program developed by the Committee for State Property and approved by the president.

Addressing the forum "Reality and Prospects for Russia's Economic Development," he said that the Moscow administration would work out a privatization program of its own. He accused the Committee for State Property, led by Anatoliy Chubays, of sacrificing economic results to politics and of squandering state money.

He categorically disagrees with the Chubays-developed program, according to which the privatization of enterprises in 1994 will be based on their balance cost in 1991 prices. The 1.5 Tn rubles at which the Committee for State Property estimated the property to be privatized for vouchers will not suffice even for maintaining this committee's bloated staff, stated Luzhkov.

He also said that the idea of democratic privatization was a failure and that the voucher funds will be a failure, too. The privatization program violates the law on property, sets the federation and its constituent members against each other, and disregards local conditions and specific features of individual branches and enterprises.

He emphasized that Moscow would be guided by its own interests and by the need to replenish the state treasury and stimulate industrial production. "If the Chubays program is not revised, we'll have many troubles," he said.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Grachev Discusses Troop Pullout From Republics

LD0802174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told reporters on Tuesday during his working visit to the Volga Military District that in 1994 Russian troops may be withdrawn from all of the CIS countries except the regions where Russian military bases will be created.

He also said that the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the former Soviet republics and from foreign countries creates problems in providing housing for Russian servicemen.

He said that next year the volume of housing construction will be increased and that in 1996-97 all servicemen will be provided with comfortable apartments.

He stated that a peacekeeping force would be created in the Volga Military District on the basis of the 27th motorized infantry division.

In addition, there is a motorized infantry division in the Leningrad Region which can also be used as a peacekeeping force.

This will be enough for tackling all peacekeeping tasks within the CIS and by decision of the UN, he said.

He expressed the opinion that Russia's air force can perform any peacekeeping mission without preliminary training.

On Tuesday, Grachev visited the construction site in the Samara Region where 1,910 apartments are being built for servicemen. From the Samara Region he went to Udmurtia where he met with local leaders

Grachev Obtains Funds To Pay Off Military Debt

LD0802195494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who thinks the government is currently resolving everything in a go-ahead manner, stated that he has at last managed to get an allocation of 1.48 trillion rubles to cancel the debt to the military-industrial complex for 1993.

Grachev To Shut Down Military Publications

MK0902082094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The End of the Military Press"]

[Text] The publication of more than 10 military periodicals—from such specific ones as the journals AVIATSIYA I KOSMONAVTIKA and TEKHNIKA I VOORUZHENIYE, to popular weeklies (SYN OTECHESTVA and others)—will stop in the very near future. According to reliable sources, Pavel Grachev has approved a draft order abolishing the military press.

Officially the reason for closing army publications is financial difficulties. According to another version, however, the main reason lies in Grachev's unhappiness over the lukewarm attitude by the subordinated press to his own personality, especially in the past few months.

Obstacles Facing Arms Exporters Viewed

PM0802143194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 5

[Report by military observer Viktor Badurkin: "We Write Dollar. Russia Loses Billions, Surrendering Arms Market to Competitors"]

[Excerpts] I remember five years ago when I first wanted to write an article about the arms trade I was advised not to touch on this "slippery" subject. They said that it was shameful to make money from other people's blood and that I should on the contrary advocate universal disarmament. And we have acted, and in such a way that the whole world has gasped. First we axed the army then the defense industry and we have "surrendered" the world arms market with virtually no resistance. We were applauded and warmly supported (verbally) but for some reason there were none who were eager to follow the example.

Today we have come to our senses. We have realized that it is shameful to squander irreplaceable natural resources, shameful when a great industrial power is assigned the role of a raw material tributary, shameful to ask for help and credits. And we have looked hopefully to our censured and destroyed defense industry: Save us, dear defense industry, earn currency for the country.

But what can it do if the majority of the sector's plants are still on compulsory Christmas vacation because of the shortage of funds and resources, if the state has still paid less than half of what it owes for output bought last year and the financing of science has been reduced almost tenfold?... [passage omitted]

Gennadiy Yampolskiy, deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Defense Industry, admits that so far warehouse stocks of arms and equipment have been sold off—mainly items with which our army is "stuffed full." The producers of new output have mostly remained without orders. Because "fresh" models cannot be exported. And if someone does try to overcome these bans and restrictions he soon realizes it is a hopeless business.

At the "Fakel" plant near Moscow they designed a very "intelligent" air defense missile. And they did so at their own initiative and using their own funds. There is no shortage of people anxious to buy it, including the Russian Defense Ministry. But the trouble is that no one in this country has money and it cannot be sold abroad without special permission. And the "commodity" is left with no demand for it. [passage omitted]

It would be all right if it were only foreign businessmen who were preventing us from trading. One can understand them. But how can one understand our own Russian Government, which is "putting spokes in the wheels?" To draw up an ordinary contract you need to spend 12-18 months touring the corridors and bowing and scraping in offices. Over the course of three years there have been 12 (!) decisions by the president and government on deliveries of aircraft to China and the sale of licenses. And far from all the decisions were irreproachable. For instance one Russian firm agreed with the Chinese that the latter would pay for their deal half in currency and half in barter but the joint government commission gave our southern neighbors the go-ahead to reduce the currency proportion to 35 percent. Here barter is subject to such taxes that it is becoming disadvantageous to import it to Russia. Or take another example. Our aircraft industry officials reached an agreement with the United Arab emirates for the delivery of output worth several hundreds of millions of dollars but after Vice Premier Shokhin's trip there it emerges that three quarters of the profits will go to pay state debts. Enterprises naturally do not like this "aid" from the state—they have to pay their workers' wages, settle accounts for deliveries and taxes. No one now wants to work at a loss.

It is an open secret that one of the main aims of any international meetings at all levels is to "push" one's own goods on the foreign market, including the market in arms and military equipment. Our defense industry officials expect as much from their own government. And not directives with a mounting list of countries with whom it is "not recommended" that contracts be maintained for various short-term political reasons. There should be a reduction in the export duty, not an increase in taxes. You can only shear a sheep which has managed to grow a fleece, you can take nothing from a naked sheep except its skin and its meat. [passage omitted]

Our newspaper recently wrote about the fiber-optic equipment developed at Chelyabinsk-70, which surpasses in quality any foreign counterparts and is far cheaper. And then what? The Americans intend rapidly to lift the ban on the sale of their fiber-optic technology to Russia which, according to their calculations, could bring in about $100 million in annual profit. But the Russian Federation Communications Ministry is signing documents on the construction in Voronezh of a plant for the production of cable using the technology of British and German firms. Again the result is that no one is a prophet in his own country. We subsidize foreigners and bar the way to our own people.

It is naive and futile to hope that the defense industry will become a "golden fish" by itself and bring the state sufficient currency without support. The hen which lays the golden eggs is also in need of care and feeding.

Chernomyrdin Contributes to New Military Journal

LD0802221094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2112 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—"Russia has military production which is competitive enough to find its buyer. This will make it possible to earn money for conversion and preserve highly qualified staff of the domestic (military) industry", Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an address to readers published in the first issue of a new journal, "The Military Parade", which was presented at a news conference here Tuesday.

The new edition, which is available both in Russian and English, is aimed at providing Russian and foreign readers with updated information about the Russian defence complex development, new sample weapons and military equipment.

The first issue specifically describes the new combat helicopter KA-50 "Black Shark", 152-mm self-propelled howitzer "MSTA-S", the air defence system "Arrow-10MZ", the state-of-art aircraft complexes, and the modern submarine "Piranha".

"This is the first step towards the implementation of the large-scale program to support defence industries in Russia and extend the export of Russian weapons and technologies of binary usage", the news conference participants said.

The journal has been founded by the League of Defence Industries, the association of investors in the Russian defence complex conversion, and the U.S. company "Zigzag Venture Group".

Authors will include Russian top military officials, developers and producers of weapons and military materiel, scholars, experts and all those whose activities are related to this field.

Such a publication has been long required by Russian military producers and their foreign customers, the journal's chief editor Yevgeniy Shashkov finalized.

Nuclear Power Industry in Financial Straits

LD0802170694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1317 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Russia's nuclear power is an a difficult situation. On the one hand, the concept of the development of nuclear power envisaging the putting into operation on 24 new power plants by the year 2010 is taking shape. Some of these power generating sets will replace the reactors that exceeded the prescribed service life. On the other hand, energy consumers are in no hurry to pay for electricity to Russian nuclear power stations, so there are no funds to pay salaries to operators on time and to purchase the neccesary equipment and fuel.

The shock that affected the population and even, in some measure, nuclear power specialists after the Chernobyl accident seems to be wearing off, and the crisis of nuclear energy is passing. Even the Cossaks on the Don who used to support environmentalists now see the need for the use of nuclear power in the region. Cossaks asked the Russian Ministry of Nuclear Power to support their initiative for setting up a public information centre on nuclear power in Rostov-on-Don.

People in various areas begin to realise that there is no alternative to the use of nuclear power in present economic conditions.

Former union republics began to admit dependence on Russian nuclear power. The Armenian nuclear power plant inactive for over four years will soon resume operation. Its fifth reactor will go into operation by next winter. The republic's population will be supplied with light and heating. Gagik Markosyan, chief engineer of the Armenian station, told ITAR-TASS that ties with Russian nuclear power specialists have nether been severed. Surveys of equipment and work to instal technical novelties is done with Russia's assitance.

Many research institutes and design offices are engaged in creating safer reactors. The new generation of water-moderated water-cooled power reactors is being designed by the regional design office "hydropress" (Podolsk, the Moscow region). The reactors will be used at the nuclear power stations in the Cola peninsula, the Far East, the Leningrad region. Foreign countries, for instance, China and Iran show interest in this reactor, Valentin Fedorov, general designer, director of "Hydropress", told ITAR-TASS. Agreements are beign drafted with some foreign countries.

Meanwhile, difficulties are expirienced by nine Russian nuclear power stations at which 29 power generating states now operate. Energy consumers have debts running into hundreds of billions of roubles. The Novovoronezhskiy nuclear power plant is about to stop. There is no money to pay salaries to the staff. The preventive repair of the fifth reactor that was planned for January has not yet began. There is no money to pay for the ordered spares. The Leningrad, Kursk and Smolensk nuclear power stations have fuel reserves to last them about a fortnight. Experts now cast about for a way out that would be more effective than seeking new credits.

Navy Hopes To Stop Nuclear Waste Dumping

LD0802094694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0823 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian Navy's command will finish working out a schedule for operations which will prevent dumping radioactive waste products in Far Eastern waters. This was announced by the Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief, Feliks Gromov, at a meeting of the government's commission led by Chairman of the State Committee for Control over Atomic Safety, Yuriy Vishnevskiy, on the settlement of the issue concerning radioactive waste products.

The state committee's press service told INTERFAX that the commission's meeting decided to set up a specific working group for examination of the situation with radioactive waste products in the Far East. This group is to work out a report for the Russian government.

The commission also discussed the operations schedule within the scope of the special federal program for 1994 on processing and utilization of radioactive waste products and used nuclear substances.

This problem became especially significant after the incident in October, 1993, when radioactive waste products were dumped into the Sea of Japan. This caused protests from Japan, South Korea and the environmental organization Greenpeace.

Federal Assembly

Duma Commission To Look Into Sep-Oct Events

LD0902110994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] According to an Interfax report, the State Duma adopted a resolution today to form a parliamentary commission to investigate the causes and circumstances of the events in Moscow in September-October of last year, which led to numerous casualties; 274 deputies voted for the resolution and 46 against, with 20 abstentions.

Deputy Accuses Rybkin of Amassing Excessive Power

MK0902105094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Maksim Shiryamov report under the "Behind the Scenes" rubric: "A Quiet Coup in State Duma"]

[Text] The latest meeting of the Russian parliament's lower chamber has seen a palace mini-coup of sorts, as a result of which actual levers of power in the State Duma will soon be concentrated in the hands of one man.

This was said to your correspondent by Georgiy Zadonskiy, a prominent parliamentary figure. Exploiting the inexperience of a vast majority of the deputies, he explained, a document was imposed on them without discussion that turns the modest State Duma speaker into its president.

He meant the decree "On Providing Support for the State Duma's Activity," which gives Chairman Ivan Rybkin powers to form the chamber's staff. The chief of staff, who, among other things, takes care of the parliamentarians' social and consumer needs, was subordinated directly to the parliamentary speaker, and comrade Ivan Rybkin, whose powers have until recently been limited to a humble steering of meetings, suddenly got powerful leverage for purposefully manipulating the deputy corps from behind the scenes.

However decent a figure the current parliamentary chief may have been cutting so far, it is still fresh in everyone's mind how extremely modest Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov] was "at the beginning of glorious endeavors." [title of a novel about Peter the Great] But the temptation "to go down in history" turned out to be too irresistible. This is why the democrats, who initially just stood gaping, are intent on ringing a bell in that regard at the nearest State Duma plenary meeting.

Duma Committee Favors Reshuffle of Ambassadors

LD0802160894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—The Russian State Duma proposed to the Foreign Ministry to replace certain ambassadors, according to Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee.

Lukin did not provide any names, but told TASS on Tuesday that his committee had "submitted to the Foreign Ministry proposals regarding appointments and recall of diplomatic representatives abroad—ambassadors, consuls and representatives in international organisations".

According to the constitution, it is the Russian president who appoints and dismisses ambassadors after consultations with corresponding parliamentary commissions and committees.

Lukin admitted that the proposals of his committee can be disregarded by the president. The notion of "consultations" does not strictly define whether "the president is obliged to agree with recommendations of the chamber and its committee or can ignore them", he said and added that his committee would continue to work according to the powers vested with it by the constitution.

On Monday the Russian president accepted the resignation of Ivan Silayev, the Russian representative in EC.

Federation Council To Examine Treaties

LD0802224994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1532 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 8 Feb—Members of the Federation Council Committee for International Affairs intend to have a preliminary familiarization with texts of all the international agreements subject to ratification and examination by the parliament. There are about 100 of these documents, and the committee has made a request to the Russian Foreign Ministry to submit them to the Federal Assembly's upper chamber, Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the committee, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

In accordance with the Russian Constitution, the federal laws on the ratification and denouncement of Russia's international agreements are subject to mandatory ratification by the Federation Council, he noted.

Podoprigora stressed that his committee will closely coordinate work with colleagues in the lower chamber, and he has already agreed with Vladimir Lukin, head of the Duma's relevant subdivision and experienced diplomat, to act in harmony to ensure fruitful work. In his view, this is very important since the process of passing agreements through parliament will now become more complicated as they will be discussed at separate sittings of the chambers. [passage omitted]

Deputies Seek State Aid to Agriculture

PM0902111994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under "In Federation Council" rubric: "Sowing Under Threat"]

[Text] In connection with the crisis which has developed in the agro-industrial complex deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council have adopted an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin. It states, in particular:

"...In the space of two years the volume of agricultural production in Russia has fallen to 65-70 percent of the average annual level during 1986-1990. Seed production and pedigree livestock breeding have been destroyed. In terms of the numbers of cattle, hogs, and sheep the Russian Federation has been 'thrust back' to the level of the sixties and seventies."

"...Owing to the inadequate growth in the prices of industrial and agricultural output, practically all farms have ended up insolvent. The implementation of all types of work connected with preparing for spring sowing has now been totally halted because of the financial crisis."

The Federation Council deputies ask the country's leadership to "examine without delay an entire package of questions to ensure the equivalent exchange of agricultural and industrial output and a radical change in tax, credit, and investment policy with regard to the agricultural sector." "It is extremely necessary for real state assistance to be given to the agro-industrial complex in the form of credit and material-technical resources before the start of the spring field work and with due regard for the seasonal nature of this work," the appeal states.

Regional Affairs

Grachev Tours Volga Military District

PM0802210994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Oleg Bedula and Aleksandr Bugay report: "Volga Military District: How Is the New Military Doctrine 'Working' Among the Troops?"]

[Text] The three-day working tour of Volga Military District units by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, is the first in a series of planned analogous tours of all the other districts and fleets, which he intends to make before the start of this summer.

The need for such tours has been occasioned by several circumstances. There is, above all, the pressing need to verify locally the possibility of the practical implementation of the military doctrine's new ideas. In addition, the defense minister and the generals and officers accompanying him will get a good opportunity to familiarize themselves with the organization and course of combat training under the present far from simple conditions and to gain a clearer idea of the prospects for the organizational development of Russia's highly mobile Armed Forces.

Such tours will also provide an opportunity for personal talks with the administration heads of the oblasts, krays, cities, and rayons where Army units and combined units are stationed—which will undoubtedly contribute to resolving the existing social problems in practice locally.

Army General Pavel Grachev cited familiarization with the organization and course of combat training and with the provision of facilities for the personnel of the tank army withdrawn from Germany and the airborne division withdrawn from the Transcaucasus as the priority area of his work in the Volga Military District. It was no coincidence that right after arriving in Samara 7 February the representatives of the Ministry of Defense listened to what the district command's had to say about these problems.

As the defense minister pointed out, on the whole the tasks set the district in terms of combat and mobilization readiness, operational and combat training, and strengthening military discipline are being fulfilled. Today the district's troops are capable of fulfilling the tasks facing them. Pavel Grachev emphasized, however, that in the very near future it will be necessary to improve considerably the quality of the combat training of individual units and combined units, a list of which, incidentally, has been drawn up separately and which will become, as the new military doctrine requires, airmobile and capable of being moved great distances very quickly and fulfilling the set combat tasks under very complex conditions.

In the course of the hearing the question of the urgent need to go over to a territorial system of troop control was also raised. It is abnormal when the commander of a particular military district is not the sole master of, let us assume, the units of central subordination stationed on this district's territory. As Army General Pavel Grachev pointed out, the elimination of this gap is a task for the very near future.

When speaking today of enhancing combat readiness, the problem of the troops' undermanning cannot be overlooked. This, in particular, was discussed at the defense minister's meeting with officers of Samara Garrison, which was held in the District Officers' House. For the first time in two years the latest draft into the Army proceeded in an organized manner. As the result of joint efforts by all the structures involved, the military commissariats were able to ensure that the Armed Forces today are almost 60-percent manned. If you compare this figure with the indicators for the fall of 1993, when manning stood at just 42.8 percent, it is clear that things are on the mend.

As for the Volga Military District, here the plan for the draft was fulfilled by 95 percent. This indicator in itself is quite high. Something else is of concern. Whereas some military commissariats managed to cope excellently with the task of the draft (the Bashkir Republic Military Commissariat achieved a 100-percent draft, and the Perm and Orenburg Oblast Military Commissariats had indicators just a little lower), the defense minister called the work of the Tatar Republic Military Commissariat and the Samara and Kirov Oblast Military Commissariats unsatisfactory. The draft for service under contract does not arouse concern. In the Middle Volga Region it stood at 125 percent of the planned level.

The Army's further reduction was also discussed at the meeting with officers. According to a statement by Army General Pavel Grachev, by 1 January 1995 the organization and establishment and the actual strength of the Armed Forces are to be comparable and stand at 2 million men. Colonel General Anatoliy Sergeyev, commander of the Volga Military District, reported that not one officer or ensign without an apartment will be discharged in the district. But if this does happen, that person will retain his place in the line to obtain housing in the unit where he completed his service.

During the meeting the defense minister presented valuable gifts to the district's officers who had distinguished themselves. Late in the evening of 7 February Army General Pavel Grachev had talks with representatives of the Samara Oblast Administration.

Yeltsin Allows Regions To Relax Election Rules

LD0802165894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] In an interview to ITAR-TASS, Sergey Samoylov, deputy head of the presidential administration directorate for cooperation with territories, said that elections to bodies of representative power are under threat in many regions of Russia. Samoylov said that because of this, Boris Yeltsin has given the Central Electoral Commission permission to allow the regions to relax strict electoral rules and to hold the elections in accordance with local circumstances.

Aushev's Decision Not To Seek Reelection Examined

MK0902104094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Dmitriy Kamyshev report: "Situation in the North Caucasus. Ingush President Refuses To Seek Second Term"]

[Excerpts] Although most decisions made by the Russian president and government on overcoming the consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict have not been implemented, the situation in the region has somewhat stabilized in the past few months. However, Ingush President Ruslan Aushev's unexpected announcement on Monday that he would not seek reelection for a second term may cause a new heightening of tensions. [passage omitted]

The 27 February elections themselves, despite the incumbent president's short stay in office, did not come as a surprise: As soon as he assumed office, Ruslan Aushev promised to work out a new constitution and to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections in accordance with it. It always seemed obvious, however, that it would be he who would be the main and in fact the only actual candidate for a new presidential term. This is why Aushev's announcement surprised even many people from his inner circle, the Ingush president's press service told KOMMERSANT-DAILY.

The reason given by the president himself does not appear very plausible, though: He and his government could have hardly done everything they wanted and were able to within one year. In addition, the "emergency rule" Ruslan Aushev referred to cannot be dismissed as a thing of the past—at least the problem of refugees has not lost its urgency. Some observers attribute Aushev's exit to the election of his main rival, Akhsarbek Galazov, as North Ossetian president, implying that by doing so the Ingush leader recognized his inability to cooperate productively with his Ossetian counterpart. Given that there are no more or less prominent and authoritative figures behind Ruslan Aushev's back, however, one may state with assurance that any of his successors will be much less experienced and may bungle by breaking the fragile stability that has currently come about in the region. Nor will he enjoy so unanimous a support in society as the incumbent president. Still, it is too early to talk about Aushev's definitive departure, because his refusal to run for office has left only one candidate in the field, for which reason the elections may simply not take place at all.

Tatarstan President Makes 'Surprise' Statement

MK0802124094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Feb 94 p

[Sergey Fedotov report: "Mintimer Shaymiyev Address. President Calls on Citizens To Take Part in Federal Elections"]

[Text] Yesterday's sitting of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet's 18th session is likely to remain as the shortest on record, lasting 20 minutes in all. Having found no common ground on the question of reforming the republic's authorities, Supreme Soviet Chairman Farid Mukhametshin decided to close the session. After a 30-minute break he opened another, the 19th session. It will be as memorable as the previous one, with Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev's publicly calling on parliament to hold repeat elections for the Federal Assembly on 13 March.

Discussions in Tatarstan's Supreme Soviet on reforming the authorities have been going on since 18 October 1993. Yesterday proved that even this time was too short for the two parliamentary commissions to come to an agreement on two versions of the draft law.

The dragged-out discussion on reforming the authorities augured a heated atmosphere, something neither the Supreme Soviet chairman nor the president wanted at all in connection with what Mintimer Shaymiyev was going to say in parliament. This is perhaps why the session was urgently terminated.

The statement that followed came as a total surprise for many deputies, especially those who represent Tatar national circles. "Proceeding from the course of the negotiations with the Russian Federation, I consider necessary the presence of Tatarstan in both the State Duma and the Federation Council of Russia. I am confident that the republic's population will support me by their active part in the 13 March elections," the president said. This address obviously came in response to Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev's successful negotiations in Moscow. Attesting to their positive result is also the fact that Mr. Shaymiyev did not arrive in Moscow Saturday although his visit had been expected, according to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's lights.

In the meantime, many deputies speaking for the local press right before that had no doubt that the president sided with those who support the line toward Tatarstan's going it alone, and urged him to demand that Moscow grant special status not only for the republic but also for its representatives in the Federal Assembly. Radical nationalists demanded that only Tatarstan observers rather than its full members of the senate and the Duma be present there.

Mr. Shaymiyev also stated, having in mind the interstate treaty between Moscow and Kazan: "Being born is a document hitherto unknown in practice, which will provide a testimony to a renewal of the federation on democratic principles, a guarantee of our republic's statehood." The deputies' reaction to the president's words remained an enigma for Russian-speaking journalists because debates were called off at the parliamentarians' request following two speeches in the Tatar language.

Local observers believe that at least 60 percent of the republic's citizens will come to the polls on 13 March with the blessing of Mintimer Shaymiyev. In all probability one should expect in the coming days an official communication on Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev himself and Supreme Soviet Chairman Farid Mukhametshin joining the election campaign for a seat in the Federation Council.

Tatar Election Campaign Proceeding With 'Vigor'

PM0902104594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the "All-Russia Tatar Newspaper YEDINSTVO" rubric: "Candidates Determined"]

[Text] The election race in Tatarstan is proceeding with renewed vigor after the first round failed to produce a result. The "Equal Rights and Legality" electoral bloc, comprising seven democratically oriented parties and movements, is showing the greatest initiative.

The newspaper IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA reports that the bloc determined its list of candidate deputies to the Russian Parliament at a routine session. They include political scientist Vladimir Belyayev and Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Deputy Valentin Mikhaylov. They gained the greatest number of votes in December's election. Senior Lecturer at Kazan University Aleksandr Shtanin is being nominated from "Russia's Choice," and Rayon Soviet worker Yuriy Rostovshchikov from the "Yabloko" bloc.

In the meantime, the newspaper comments, the opposition has also become active. The "Defense for the Tatarstan President" committee has examined the question of "whether it is expedient to conduct Russian elections on the territory of the sovereign Republic of Tatarstan." It came to the conclusion: "Elections to the Russian Parliament should not take place in Tatarstan as the republic did not sign the Federation Treaty. What is more, it has its own Constitution."

Russian-Tatarstan Draft Treaty Detailed

MK0802120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Lukashov report from Kazan under the "Republics" rubric: "Russia, Tatarstan Have Almost Agreed. Historic Document May Be Signed 15 February"]

[Text] Tatarstan Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev, who heads the Tatar delegation to talks with Russia, has told your SEGODNYA correspondent that the work on the draft Treaty on the Mutual Delegation of Powers and Terms of Reference between the Republic of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation has been virtually completed. Last weekend the document was presented to Presidents Yeltsin and Shaymiyev.

Likhachev would not specify what formula for relations between the republic and the federal center was found after nearly three years of negotiations, saying only that it differed from Article 61 of the Tatarstan Constitution, which stipulates that "the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state, a subject of international law, associated with the Russian Federation-Russia on the basis of a treaty..." It has transpired, however, that the Russian side agreed to accept sovereignty and the republic's status as a subject of international law, a fact from which local observers conclude that only the term "associated" has been changed in the aforementioned constitutional formula.

The Tatarstan vice president said also that human rights and freedoms come first in the treaty and that the largest section deals with the joint powers of the Russian and Tatar authorities. In Likhachev's view, this is an argument in the dispute about how the treaty should be assessed: As a document formalizing Russia's breakup or as a legal framework for Russia's establishing itself as a federation.

Likhachev said also that "the talks between Tatarstan and Russia have ushered in a completely new type of diplomacy" and that the "draft treaty under consideration is unprecedented both in Russian history and on a world scale."

During the Tatar delegation's stay in Moscow another four agreements were drawn up that are set to be signed simultaneously with the treaty: on combatting crime, on finances, on budget relations, and on foreign economic activity. Hence 11 out of the planned 12 agreements (seven were signed earlier, and one—on military organization—has not yet been prepared) will go into force in the near future.

This week, a Tatar delegation is scheduled to arrive in Moscow again to initial the treaty, a ceremony which was put off 4 February owing to Boris Yeltsin's illness. The ceremony of signing the document is still tentatively scheduled for 15 February.

It is yet unclear at what stage the treaty should pass through the Federation Council: The upper chamber has made clear that is wants to take part in the historic event.

Fuel Shortages Halt Industry in Arkhangelsk

LD0802232994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Main production facilities and defense enterprises at the center of nuclear shipbuilding in Severodvinsk have been brought to a stop for a week at least. Fuel reserves at two of the town's heating plants are running out. Here, heat and electricity are used only for the social sphere, they are supplied to houses and enterprises to ensure the port's vital services.

A critical fuel situation has appeared in Arkhangelsk. The temperature in the heating systems has been lowered.

Main production lines of the paper and pulp combine in Novodvinsk, which is a major combine in the oblast, have been stopped.

Power engineering workers in the White Sea region do not have the money to buy fuel. Non-payers—mainly organizations financed from the budget—owe them over 20 billion rubles. This situation in power engineering causes special concern in connection with the weather forecast—which predicts a sharp fall in temperature in Murmansk Oblast this week—down to 30-40 degrees [centigrade] below zero.

International Affairs

Zlenko Objects To Air Strikes on Serb Positions

LD0802220994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] "We object unequivocally to air strikes against Serbian positions around Sarajevo," Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's Foreign Minster, told journalists in Brussels Tuesday. He quoted military experts as saying that "the peace keeping units would immediately become hostages of such action."

Zlenko thinks that Serbians could then use the air strikes as a pretext to retaliate against the peacekeeping forces.

The Ukrainian minister thinks that a decision on air strikes should be made by the UN Security Council. He does not doubt that Russia would veto air strikes.

He did not rule out the possibility that NATO could make a unilateral decision and emphasized that the security of peacekeeping units had to be guaranteed, in particular the Ukrainian battalion.

Zlenko would not, however, welcome unilateral withdrawal of the Ukrainian unit, even if a decision to stage air strikes was made. He told the journalists that his country had earlier proposed adopting a convention on UN peacekeeping forces.

Talks Begin With Russia on Nuclear Issues

Russian Official Cited on Talks

LD0702192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Russia hopes that the talks on the nuclear problem to begin in Kiev on Tuesday will clarify all issues pertaining to nuclear weapons, leader of the Russian delegation Yuriy Dubinin told Interfax.

He believes that the Ukrainian parliament's resolution on the ratification of the START-I treaty, passed on February 4, 1994, has many "ambiguous places." It does not say, for instance, what percentage of nuclear weapons is to be eliminated.

Dubinin said that on November 18, 1993, the Ukrainian parliament passed the resolution on the ratification of the START-I treaty, according to which only 36% of the Ukrainian missiles and 42% of the warheads were to be eliminated. "This goes against both the START-I treaty and the Lisbon agreements. It's still unclear whether Ukraine intends to eliminate 100% of the nuclear weapons located on its territory in strict accordance with the START-I treaty and the Lisbon protocol," he said.

According to Dubinin, neither is it clear whether Ukraine will join the nonproliferation treaty as a non-nuclear state.

Speaking about Ukraine's participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, he said that Russia is approaching this issue calmly. "Russia has already supported the partnership concept. Why should Ukraine not join it?" he said.

...AND UKRAINE WILL SOON JOIN NONPROLIFERATION TREATY, AMBASSADOR SAYS

Ukraine will be a non-nuclear state and will "shortly" join the Nonproliferation Treaty of 1968, the Ukrainian ambassador to Russia said.

Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy told a news conference in Moscow on Monday that the Ukrainian parliament had now approved all the points of Article Five of the Lisbon Protocol. "This eliminates the main problem, and now everything is ready for joining the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the immediate future," he said. All nuclear arms will be removed from Ukraine, he said.

Kryzhanovskiy said the Ukrainian legislature had charged the government with the exchanging of the START-I ratification instruments and instructed it to take more efforts to enter into relevant international agreements.

The ambassador did not rule out that Ukraine's membership in the Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state would be approved by the present parliament, but said this was most likely to be done by the next legislature, to be elected on March 27.

Commenting on Ukraine's relations with Russia, Kryzhanovskiy said there was some friction but that it had set off no conflicts between the two nations. As for the idea of the incorporation of the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea into Russia through a Crimean referendum, he said it would be the same as the incorporation of Russia's Kuril Islands into Japan on the basis of the results of a referendum by the Kurile population. "That's not serious," he said.

He said none of the former Soviet republics, including Russia, "has given a kopeck" to return Crimean Tatars to Crimea.

START Implementation Viewed

LD0802183894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 8 Feb—A working meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian groups of experts on the issue of elaborating specific mechanisms to implement the trilateral Russian-Ukrainian-American statement concerning nuclear disarmament began on 8 February. The Russian delegation is headed by Yuriy Dubinin, ambassador at large of the Russian Federation, and the Ukrainian delegation is headed by Valeriy Shmarov, vice-premier for issues of the military-industrial complex and conversion. "This is the latest phase of talks to develop the

trilateral statement. Another such meeting would come in useful," Valeriy Shmarov informed a UNIAN correspondent in an exclusive interview.

"Several more statements have been prepared, and there is no doubt on the Ukrainian side that they will be signed. All issues will be resolved in strict compliance with the START I Treaty. There is already a draft program for implementing Ukrainian pledges: the share, quota, proportion, and procedure for recycling and taking silos out of a combat state—all this has been elaborated and is to be discussed." The meeting is scheduled to end 9 February.

Talks on Nuclear Status 'Amicable'

LD0902114894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1048 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Excerpt] Kiev, 9 Feb—The Ukrainian-Russian talks on measures to implement the agreement between the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and the United States on the Ukraine's nuclear-free status are continuing today in Kiev. Observers note that the parties firmly intend to resolve the complex problems. The meeting is being held in a constructive and amicable atmosphere. The participants in the Russo-Ukrainian talks may issue a statement toward the end of the day, once the round has been concluded. [passage omitted]

Deputy Disputes Official Text of START Resolution

LD0802222994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2119 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 8 Feb—"Officials from Ukraine's leadership circles have falsified the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution of 3 February 1994 [ratifying the START I Treaty]," People's Deputy Serhiy Holovatyy claims.

During the debate on a draft resolution on the trilateral statement by the Ukrainian, U.S. and Russian presidents, Deputy Serhiy Holovatyy put forward an amendment to Paragraph 2, as follows: "To this end (in order to exchange ratification certificates), government activity should be stepped up to conclude specific international agreements that follow from the reservations in the Supreme Council's resolution on the ratification of the START I Treaty."

This version of the resolution was approved by the Supreme Council of Ukraine. In the official text of the resolution, however, a different version of Paragraph 2 was presented. Namely, the words "to this end" were excluded. Thus, the contents of the Supreme Council's decision on this issue were essentially altered. The text of Paragraph 2 in its amended version makes provision for the following sequence of the Ukrainian Government's actions relating to the START I Treaty: First, concluding international agreements that proceed from the Supreme Council resolution and, in particular on granting Ukraine security guarantees, followed by an exchange of ratification certificates.

Such a sequence does not exist in the falsified text and this is why Mr. Holovatyy considers that it was stated that Ukraine lifted all reservations relating to the START I treaty, including also security guarantees. In fact, this does not conform with reality.

Spokesman Views Problems With Russian Gas Supplier

LD0802214394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2003 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Commenting on the message from Gazprom, the main supplier of Russian gas, to the effect that gas supplies to Ukrainian customers could be stopped, Stepan Belei, spokesman for the Ukrainian Cabinet, told Interfax-Ukraine that the Russian supplier was in dire financial straits because its Russian and other customers owed it about 10 trillion rubles.

Gazprom warned Ukraine again that the supplies might be stopped on February 9 unless the debt, 1.2 trillion rubles as of February 1, is paid.

According to Belei, Yefio Bvyagilsky, acting prime minister, had informed experts on an agreement reached with the Russian Government to the effect that Ukrainian supplies to Russia would be regarded as payment of the debt.

On the other hand, Stepan Yalovega, the spokesman for the Ukrainian State Oil and Gas Committee, told Interfax-Ukraine that the size of the debt mentioned in the Gazprom message came as a surprise.

Vasily Razgonyuk, chief engineer of the Ukrgazprom concern, said that it was up to the government to comment on the situation. In his words, the concern provided what amounted to an interest-free credit to all Ukrainian industries by supplying gas without demanding prepayment. "The industries have not paid us for last year's supplies," he said and added that the consumers owed Ukrgazprom over 10 trillion karbovantsi as of February 1.

New Proposals on Dividing Black Sea Fleet

LD0802225294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 8 Feb—A UNIAN correspondent has learned that new proposals regarding the division of the Black Sea Fleet have been prepared at Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. Compared to previous plans for resolving this issue, as well as the "sale" of the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea Fleet to decrease Kiev's debt for energy-carriers and granting the Russian side rights to a long- term lease of the Sevastopol naval base and virtually all of the Black Sea Fleet infrastructure, these proposals envisage Russian laws in force on the territory,

which is leased. The proposals have been prepared for the meeting between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, which Boris Yeltsin requested of Leonid Kravchuk in a personal letter on 15 January 1994.

Foreign Ministry Officials on Partnership for Peace

LD0802161494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev-Brussels—During a visit to the Kingdom of Belgium on 8 February, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatoliy Zlenko signed the Partnership for Peace framework agreement proposed at the January summit of NATO member countries. The document envisages close ties between the republic and NATO, especially regarding reform in the armed forces, officer training, and joint exercises. It stipulates involvement of Ukraine's military subunits in UN and CSCE operations, open national defense and budget planning, democratic control over the military sphere, and exchange of relevant information. Partnership for Peace member countries can consult NATO members when faced with a direct threat to their territorial integrity, political independence, or security, but this does not imply security guarantees on the part of the NATO.

Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk told UNIAN: "It is of special importance to Ukraine to be able to initiate such consultations, since Ukrainian political circles have for a long time been voicing concern over the state's security, especially in the wake of parliament's confirmation on 3 February of the country's intention to get rid of nuclear weapons completely."

"Membership in Partnership for Peace will enable Ukraine to build its armed forces on a new basis, approaching world standards, and involve its military subunits in various operations run by the UN and the CSCE which will enhance its authority," said Yuriy Serheyev, head of the information directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commenting on the signing of the document.

Armenian President Stops in Lvov, Meets Deputy Premier

WS0802164994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan stopped in Lvov today on his way to London. At the airport, the Armenian president met with Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Demyanov, Presidential Representative in Lvov Stepan Davymuka, and Mykola Horyn, head of the Lvov Oblast Council of People's Deputies. Armenian Charge d'Affaires in Ukraine Hrad Silvnian also participated in the meeting. Levon Ter-Petrosyan was briefed on the socioeconomic situation in Ukraine. The officials exchanged opinions on ways of establishing closer contacts between the two countries. It was emphasized that it is necessary to work out bilateral international treaties in the near future.

National Affairs

New Crimean President Confident About Future

LD0902102094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1832 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By correspondent Ukrinform Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 8 Feb—Yuriy Meshkov, recently elected as the first president of Crimea, has assessed very positively his meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. According to the press service of the Crimean president, "it gave him confidence that the socioeconomic problems of the republic can be overcome."

Yuriy Meshkov reiterated his confidence at today's meeting with French Ambassador to Ukraine Michel Yves Peissik. The guest was interested in the situation in the republic, the program of its economic revival, and the investment policy of the Crimean leadership. They talked about cooperation in culture and tourism.

Meshkov Makes Appointments

MK0902092094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report under the "Crimea" rubric: "Meeting Between President Meshkov and Admiral Baltin May Speed Up Determination of Black Sea Fleet Status"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Ukrainian mass media express fear that even before Yuriy Meshkov was elected president he constantly opposed the presence of Ukrainian army and national guard units in the peninsula, fearing that the Black Sea Fleet may turn into something similar to the Russian 14th Army in the Dniester Region.

Observers believe that since Admiral Baltin effectively takes orders only from the defense minister and the commander in chief of the Russian Federation Navy (although the Black Sea Fleet is under the command of two presidents—Russia's and Ukraine's), Boris Yeltsin should say his word regarding the situation. It cannot be ruled out that Yuriy Meshkov's election as Crimean president may speed up the determination of the Black Sea Fleet's status.

As is known, however, leaders of many Ukrainian parties and movements and a part of the Ukrainian parliament's deputy corps insist on a return to the Yalta agreements, while ignoring the latest ones—those signed in Massandra. Observers believe that Boris Yeltsin will find himself in a difficult situation after the trilateral American-Russian-Ukrainian statement set forth the principle of the inviolability of borders.

Meanwhile, a confrontation between the Crimean president and the current lineup of the peninsula's Supreme Soviet is in the making. Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Bagrov has taken a vacation after submitting an application requesting the parliament to accept his resignation. So far the resignation has not been accepted. The parliamentary session decided to return to the subject after Bagrov's return from vacation. Crimean Council of Ministers Chairman Boris Samsonov has also announced his resignation and taken a vacation. As many as three deputy Council of Ministers chairmen have suddenly gotten sick at the same time: Tatyana Krasikova, in charge of social matters; Pavel Pashkov, who supervises trade and consumer services; and Aleksandr Formanchuk, responsible for international affairs. An effective paralysis of power and a breakup in the peninsula's entire life-support system are now a realistic possibility.

For the time being, however, Yuriy Meshkov has announced the first appointments to his administration. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA wrote in summer 1992 about Major General Valeriy Kuznetsov, commander of the Crimean Army Corps, who was discharged from service by the Ukrainian defense minister. On 29 June 1992 he was elected Crimean Supreme Soviet deputy. Now Dmitriy Kuznets is a presidential military adviser. Colonel Valeriy Grishankov, former chief of the Crimean army corps' special department, who was dismissed following Kuznetsov, was appointed the president's chief of staff. Col. Vladimir Demin, a staffer at the special department, was discharged at the same time. Now he has the office of presidential adviser for foreign economic affairs.

It was together with Grishankov and Demin (and no one else) that Yuriy Meshkov flew for a meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk on 4 February. Information on the meeting was very scanty from both sides, but Igor Azarov, press secretary of the Crimean president, told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent on 8 February that "Kravchuk does not object to the simultaneous circulation of the Russian ruble and the Ukrainian karbovanets." "The president of the Republic of Crimea attempted to back away from concepts worked out by Nikolay Bagrov and to start everything from scratch," Igor Azarov said. The presidential press secretary also told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that Russian President Boris Yeltsin called Yuriy Meshkov and that a meeting between Yeltsin and Meshkov "may take place in the very near future; currently it is being prepared."

Now about yet another appointment made by the Crimean president, one important for Meshkov's fledgling relations with the Crimean Tatar People's Assembly. Anife Seytumer-kyzy, a Crimean Tatar and president of the Crimean-Turkish trading house, Kara-Kaplan, has assumed the post of presidential adviser on national matters and relations with public organizations.

Plyushch Comments on Crimean Elections

WS0802140094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 2

[Interview with Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch by Yuliya Mostovaya; place and date not given: "Ivan Plyushch: 'I Categorically Disagree With Those Who Compare Zhirinovskiy With Meshkov'"]

[Text] **Leonid Kravchuk presented to the press his opinion on the Crimean presidential elections long before the second round took place, noting that the Crimean people have the right to elect their president. However, he added that if the first president of the Crimea violates the Ukrainian Constitution or any other laws, the Ukrainian president will have the right to annul his resolutions. The position of the Supreme Council of Ukraine was not so clear at that time. As everyone knows, many deputies stated that the Crimean elections were unconstitutional. I asked Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch to give his opinion on the results of the elections in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.**

[Plyushch] Elections in the Crimea have been held. I accepted the results of the first round, and likewise those of the second. According to the results of the second round, Yuriy Meshkov was elected the Crimean president. I always want to see more bright, white things than dark and dangerous ones. Therefore, as you know, we drafted constitutional resolutions that were discussed by the Supreme Council Constitutional Commission with the participation of committee chairmen and presidential representatives. Later, they were submitted to the Supreme Council for consideration. True, the drafts have not been approved, but they do contain a provision for the entire population of an oblast to elect an official to head the local council and executive authorities. The Crimea is one of our territories that has the status of an autonomous republic. Following the example of the Crimea, we develop relations between the center and regions. The first thing we did was therefore to adopt legislation on the division of economic powers between Kiev and the Crimea. I supported this at the time, and I continue to do so, since it does not make any sense to govern everything from the center, as was previously done from Moscow. Replacing Moscow with Kiev does not make any sense. By doing so, we would have 25 cabinets of ministers all over Ukraine. Everything that is provided for by basic constitutional resolutions has taken place in the Crimea—they have elected a president who will head the executive branch. The fate of the legislative branch is, as yet, unknown. Yet, according to Crimean legislation, their president has no right to dissolve the Crimean Supreme Council or ordain a referendum on confidence or nonconfidence in the Crimean parliament. This means that there is no problem. The legislative body elected by the Crimean people is still functioning. Although Mykola Bahrov tendered his resignation following consultations with members of the Supreme Council Presidium, or maybe with somebody else, it was decided to send him off on

leave, to let him relax after his disappointment. Meanwhile, the Crimean Supreme Council will continue to operate under Maslov, who has to perform the duties of its chairman. A plenary session is to be held today, at which Crimean President Meshkov will deliver a speech and take the oath of office.

I am glad that Yuriy Meshkov, neither during the first round of elections nor the second one, nor at press conferences, has said that he would pursue a course of separating the Crimea from Ukraine. Regarding his statements on broad and close integration with Russia and an economic zone, may God grant that this happens. If regions integrate economically, it will be easier for Ukraine to integrate with foreign countries. I would not like to make a problem out of this. One should try to gain some experience from this issue. Although Meshkov says that he does not see any forms of cooperation with Russia and Ukraine at the moment, I believe that our legislation provides for such forms. Still, there are certain acts adopted by the Crimean legislature which do not conform to Ukrainian ones. Our Committee for Legal and Legislative Issues has therefore listed discrepancies between the two sets of legislation. The Crimea has also obtained this list. We have asked our Crimean colleagues to adjust their legislation to meet that of Ukraine. I believe that, after a meeting between the Ukrainian and Crimean presidents, and following an official statement by Leonid Kravchuk, this issue will again be addressed. Although there are various ways of achieving this, I am for consolidation rather than confrontation.

I categorically disagree with those who compare Zhirinovskiy with Meshkov and what is taking place in Russia with developments in the Crimea. I do not see the elections as Bahrov's defeat and Meshkov's victory. More than 70 percent of the people voted for an improvement of life on the peninsula. They want everything to remain as it was in the past—they want all nationalists, from the near and far abroad, to continue visiting the Crimea, the economic zone to continue functioning, and mutually beneficial ties to continue developing. If Meshkov manages to achieve this, of course without leaving Ukraine, I will praise him and be envious of his successes. If he fails to do so, well, not everyone can succeed.

[Mostovaya] **Ivan Stepanovych, what do you think about the tripartite declaration signed in Moscow?**

[Plyushch] My opinion about the declaration is unequivocally positive. I think that it was the only possible decision in terms of sense, although its form is not perfect. However, we are only a subject of the tripartite declaration. Could we dictate the form? Of course not. I would have surely preferred, as a citizen and an official, that Clinton had met with Kravchuk not at the airport but at his official residence, as with any other state leader.... I believe that this declaration was yet another step toward satisfying the Supreme Council's reservations about the 18 November resolution on ratifying the START I treaty. Although the declaration includes a chapter concerning other types of nonnuclear strategic weapons, we should not make a problem out of this. Let us liquidate the nuclear weapons first, and then we will talk about other types of strategic offensive arms. I believe that this declaration not only gives us guarantees, but also prevents territorial claims and interference in Ukraine's internal affairs. This agreement came in the very nick of time, since it included security guarantees for us. Even if they were not formulated as we wished, they are still better than none.

[Mostovaya] **Will the current parliament examine the tripartite declaration?**

[Plyushch] Although it is very hard for me to speak about this, I do not think that the declaration is an agreement. Therefore, it is not subject to ratification by parliament. Moreover, the document was signed on behalf of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States. Only agreements, not declarations, are signed this way. Although there are some flaws, this is not the most important aspect. The most important thing is that the declaration answers the reservations put forward by the legislature on 18 November. Therefore, I believe that the current Supreme Council should decide whether or not the tripartite declaration signed by our president conforms to the resolution concerning the START I treaty.

[Mostovaya] **Yet the president has requested that the issue of acceding to the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons also be examined....**

[Plyushch] This will be the responsibility of the next Supreme Council. It will depend on how the provisions of the tripartite declaration are fulfilled. Such issues should not be rushed.

KNDS Sees Crimean Elections as Violation of Law

AU0802151294 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 2 Feb 94 p 1

["Statement by the Press Service of the Congress of National Democratic Forces [KNDS] on Meshkov's Victory in the Crimea: The Policy of Temporizing Has Turned Out To Be the Worst"; issued in Kiev on 31 Jan]

[Text] The adherence both by the citizens and all branches of the authorities to the Main Law is a guarantee of stability in the state. Unfortunately, Ukraine belongs to those states where the Constitution is ignored by many political parties and authorities. The guarantor of the Constitution—the president of Ukraine—while following the course of this process, constantly resorts to self-vindicating statements.

The election of the president of the Crimean autonomous region was a blatant violation of Ukrainian laws, including the Constitution. The elections were held in an atmosphere of acute Ukrainophobia and had an obvious backing from the "ruble zone" patrons. By that time, the

Ukrainian state leadership had traditionally occupied a temporizing and so-called balanced position.

These circumstances and the economic situation in the state have brought the leader of the Crimean Republican Movement [RDK], Meshkov, and the political bloc "Rossiya" [Russia] to executive power. The Russian Federation has acquired yet another lever for putting pressure upon Ukraine. This concerns, in particular, the Black Sea Fleet and the deployment of the Russian Armed Forces on the territory of the Ukrainian state. The Russian mass media, first and foremost "Ostankino" television and the VESTI news agency, stated, one after the other, that the Crimea is adopting a new political course.

The RDK leader received almost half the votes of the adult population. Therefore, the results of the voting have shown that the Crimean population has really taken a new course oriented toward Russia, the economic transformations promised by it, and the financial injections.

That is why the results of the Crimean presidential elections must also become a basis for a fundamental revision of Ukraine's economic policy. The success achieved by the separatist Meshkov is also a consequence of the absence in Ukraine of a clear information policy aimed at strengthening statehood.

Even before the second round of the elections, Meshkov announced that, on 27 March, he would hold a referendum on independence. We believe that the policy of temporizing has turned out to be the worst for Ukraine. The events of recent months have shown that Ukraine's state leadership has no proper influence upon the regions. How can the executive represented by the RDK be loyal to Kiev, if one of its proclaimed tasks is the achievement of the peninsula's full independence...?

[Signed] The Press Service of the Congress of National Democratic Forces
[Dated] Kiev, 31 January 1994

Work Stoppages Noted at Donetsk Coal Mines

LD0802232894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Donetsk—On 8 February approximately 3,000 persons refused to work at the Chelyuskintsiv mine of the Donetsk Coal production association. A spontaneous rally of miners began outside the mine at 1200. Ivan Pashko, head of the mine's trade union committee, said in a conversation with a UNIAN correspondent: "The first thing which the miners are demanding is the payment of money earned by them. Neither do we have sufficient funds to provide material and technical for the work to go smoothly."

On the same day the Northern mine of the Dzerzhinsk Coal association stopped work. The strike at a mine of the Artemovsk Coal association is continuing, and the Torez Anthracite association is preparing for a strike.

Belarus

Kebich Views Financial Merger, Planned Strike

WS0802211494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Postfactum Radio" feature]

[Text] Today, a session of the Presidium of the Belarusian Scientific-Industrial Association was held. It is obvious that the most important issue in its agenda was the issue of the merger of the Belarusian and Russian financial systems. Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich delivered a speech at this session. We are going to broadcast excerpts of his speech addressing the gist of the protocol of the session of the Russian-Belarusian commission of experts.

[Begin Kebich recording] Within three months, beginning with the date of the merger of our monetary systems, the Republic of Belarus will conduct payments of wages to staff employed in the state budget sector according to a single wage scale, which is being used in the Russian Federation. Belarus will finance measures to ensure the social protection of the population at the expense of the Republic's budget. However, this does not mean that social payments will equal similar ones in Russia. The National Bank of Belarus will allot credits—at amounts which were agreed upon with the Russian Finance Ministry and the Central Bank of Russia—to the Belarusian Government, commercial banks of Belarus, and other loan providers. The National Bank of Belarus can buy hard currency, precious stones, and other valuables only at the request and at the expense of the Belarusian Government and other legal bodies, and at the expense of its own funds and profits. The National Bank of Belarus buys payment notes, cash, and Russian currency above the amount which it will receive within the single exchange of money resulting from the monetary system merger [words indistinct] and performs noncash transactions [words indistinct]. Correspondent accounts will only be used for the sake of recording our mutual accounts. This will differ from the current situation, whereby these accounts are used to rigidly control (?the accounts), they will only record trade operations performed between Russian and Belarus. When the National Bank of Belarus hands back the Russian payment notes, the Central Bank of Russia will transfer appropriate sums to corresponding accounts in the National Bank of Belarus.

The establishment of the exchange rate of the Russian and Belarusian currencies is based on methods drafted by the Russian National Committee for Statistics, located in Belarus, and proceeds from the buying power of the national currencies and [words indistinct]. The establishment of an exchange rate for the Russian and Belarusian currencies is closely linked with other procedures tied with the merger of the monetary systems and the change of price scales in Belarus, so as not to bring about, on the one hand, a decrease in net income and savings of private individuals and legal bodies, and, on the other hand, an increase in inflation in the newly merged financial system. The Belarusian side, agreeing in general to the above-mentioned methods of establishing an exchange rate for the Russian and Belarusian currencies, proposes to estimate the monetary resources of the population at a one-to-one rate, including cash, savings, and deposit accounts.

The parties state that the creation of [words indistinct] equal conditions for mutual trade, a single mechanism for formulating free [word indistinct] prices, the distribution of domestic Russian prices for energy and other recourses on the territory of Belarus, the lifting of export customs duties on trade between Russia and Belarus constitute the obligatory condition for the existence of the single financial system. Therefore, [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has also touched upon the issue of a political strike which, as you know, is scheduled to take place on 15 February.

[Begin Kebich recording] The situation is difficult [words indistinct]. We (?will undertake all the measures to not permit this strike.) The situation is different in various regions of Belarus. However, [words indistinct]. The task is to [words indistinct]. In my opinion, I do not have to agitate for [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Banks Sign Monetary Agreements

LD0802181194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] An intergovernmental agreement on the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus is planned to be signed by February 17, 1994, Belarusian First Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich told a press conference today. He pointed out that the two countries' central banks, finance and external economic relations ministries had already signed the corresponding agreements.

The first deputy prime minister also told the journalists of the results of the working meeting of experts of the Russian-Belarusian interstate commission on the unification of the two countries' monetary systems which ended in Minsk recently.

Myasnikovich said the experts agreed that, firstly, it is necessary to equalize prices to ensure the two countries' successful trade. In particular, the prices of fuel sold to Belarus must be equal to Russia's internal prices. In addition, it is necessary to lift all customs duties in bilateral trade.

Secondly, the two countries will not merge their budget systems since they agreed that the shares of deficit in their GDP must be proportional. (In 1993, Russia's budget deficit was 10.5

of GDP, while it was 6

in Belarus - Interfax's note.)

Thirdly, Myasnikovich said that cash Belarusian rubles will be exchanged for Russian ones at the rate of 1:1. Belarus needs to put in its circulation about 700 billion Russian rubles, while the republic's aggregate money supply at the moment is 2.1 trillion rubles, according to Myasnikovich. The rate for non-cash exchange will be set according to statistical data on the purchasing strength of the two countries' monetary units at the moment of unification.

Judged by this parameter, the Russian ruble was stronger than the Belarusian one by 2.19 times on January 1, 1994, according to the Russian and Belarussian statistics committees. Experts of the International Monetary Fund say the ratio will be 1:2.5 by March 1.

Fourthly, Belarusian wages should be roughly equal to Russian wages. At present, the gap between them is by about 3 times, that is why the experts agreed that the salaries of employees of state bodies will be re-calculated within three months of the beginning of the unification.

Finally, the two countries' correspondent accounts with the counterpart central bank will play a passive role as they will only keep the payments register.

Myasnikovich said the experts were finalizing disputable issues related to the unification in Moscow.

Agreement on Single Prices for Energy

MK0902101094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Vitaliy Tsygankov report under the "Belarus" rubric: "Stakes Are Big in Merging Belarus and Russia Monetary Systems. They Are Power in the Republic"]

[Text] For three days, groups of experts of Belarus and Russia were in session at a government residence not far from Minsk. They were discussing one more time the mechanisms and terms for merging both countries' monetary systems.

First Vice Premier Mikhail Myasnikovich stated in a news conference that accord had been reached on the question most painful for Belarus—single prices of energy resources. In the meantime, according to Myasnikovich, Belarus buys Russian oil at $77 per tonne whereas Moscow sells it at $45 to its internal consumers. The same ratio of $75 against $17 applies to gas. Responding to the Russian claim that single energy prices were a disadvantage for Russia, the Belarus experts spoke about the advantages Russia has: free transit of all types of transport across Belarus territory, gas pipelines and oil pipelines, the free-of-charge presence of Russian strategic troops on the republic's territory.

As some politicians and observers think, Moscow has no reason for agreeing to single prices. They argue that once Belarus volunteers (especially in the wake of Shushkevich's resignation) as it does for the closest possible union with Russia, it should be set the toughest terms. Thus, it is quite natural that the question of including Belarus in Russia's monetary system is political first and foremost. Belarus Prime Minister Kebich, who has placed the main political chips on the merger, obviously realizes this too.

Scoring a success here is especially important for him in light of the impending all-Belarus political strike. At this point, not only opposition politicians and bankers, but some ministers, too, also realize the danger of the action being undertaken. Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned by chance about a conference in one of the ministries where its head was painting for his staff a sad prospect of the agency's work after the merger of the monetary systems. None the less, a brief effect of external improvement in the wake of the "rubleization" of Belarus is supposed to take place. Realizing this, Kebich, together with his cabinet, hypes the successes of another round of talks, insisting especially that cash is supposed to be exchanged at a one-for-one rate.

The Russian delegation, as the talks have shown, is not too eager so far to agree to go along with such a fabulous rate as far as Belarus is concerned. However, as the prime minister stated to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent: "The experts' business is to work, but it is up to the two premiers to say the last word on prices and the level of rates."

Opposition Criticizes Russian Currency Union

LD0802183094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 8 TASS—The so-called unification of Belarusian and Russian monetary systems, which actually means Belarusian merging with the Russian monetary system, is nothing but "disarmament" of the Belarusian economy and state in the face of more powerful Russian capital and enterprise, says a statement of the Belarusian parliamentary opposition representing the Belarusian Popular Front.

In the opinion of 23 signatories to the document, the unification of monetary systems and its consequences will result in Belarusians' work for alien masters and the alien state. The republic will become a free corridor for tax-free transit of russian gas, oil and raw materials to the west.

The statement claims unilateral orientation at the east has inflicted on Belarus enormous losses in clearing goods exchange. For instance, Belarus pays 128 U.S. dollars for a ton of Russian oil, which costs 91 U.S. dollars at the Rotterdam Exchange.

The opposition deputies called for an all-Belarusian political rally to demand resignation of the government, dissolution of the parliament and democratic elections.

Moldova

Snegur Denounces Dniester Leadership

LD0802141494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau February 8 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has accused leaders of the self-styled Dniester Republic of attempts to aggravate the socio-political situation in the left-hand bank areas of the republic and has warned the population about their possible provocations. These charges and warnings are contained in a presidential address to the people of Moldova, published here today.

"The unconstitutional authorities of the so-called Dniester Republic have blocked the implementation of the Moscow agreement on the peaceful settlement of the conflict, signed on August 21, 1992," Snegur stressed. "This is evidenced by the deployment of Dniester armed forces within the zone of security, which was envisaged by the Moscow agreement, and their remaining fortifications there. The local population was actually shut up in a reservation by the special regime clamped down on the left-hand bank territory by the Tiraspol leaders," the Moldovan president claims. "Posts have been set up on roads and vehicles and citizens are being searched in a most humiliatory manner. Pressure is being exerted on villagers refusing to support the Tiraspol leaders. People are not allowed to set up voting stations for the upcoming parliamentary elections in Moldova."

Vice-president of unrecognised Dniester Republic Aleksandr Karaman stated today that Snegur's public warning against possible provocations prove that such acts are quite possible. "Definite forces in Moldova would like to put the blame for them on the Dniester Moldovan Republic, especially in the presence of foreign observers," Karaman stated. "However, it would be logical for us to keep very quiet and mild in such a situation," he added.

Snegur Addresses Interior Ministry Meeting

AU0802213394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Correspondent Mircea Dascaliuc report from Chisinau]

[Text] Today, the meeting of the Ministry of Interior Collegium of the Republic of Moldova was held in Chisinau. The meeting was attended by President Mircea Snegur. Minister of Interior Constantin Antoci read the report on the activity of the employees of the Ministry in the year 1993 and on future tasks. According to the report of the Press Service of the Presidency, in the speech made on this occasion, Mr. Mircea Snegur generally assessed the way in which the active personnel of the police forces fulfilled their specific tasks and said that, in order to return people's confidence, it is necessary to double the efforts made by the police force.

President Snegur said that 75 percent of the total crimes represent economic crimes and this means knife blows applied to reform. The president of the Republic of Moldova insisted on the need to train certain experts to obtain a high degree of qualification, emphasized the increasing role played by the National Police Academy 'Stefan cel Mare' and expressed his belief that the police troops must be increased and not reduced, the way certain political formations suggest.

Also today, President Mircea Snegur signed the decree on the appointment of Mr. Aurelian Danila to the position of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Moldova in the Republic of Austria. Mr. Aurelian Danila is currently ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Romania.

Also today, the discussions on the draft treaty on the civil and penal legal assistance between the Republic of Moldova and Romania began at the Ministry of Justice in Chisinau. The International Relations Service of the ministry and the commission that was approved through a decree issued by President Mircea Snegur, examine the proposals made in connection with this document. According to the announcement of the Press Center of the Ministry of Justice, the place and date of negotiations and the signing of the aforementioned treaty will be announced soon.

Dniester Authorities Said To Hire Former KGB Officers

AU0802150194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1818 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 7/2/1994—From our special correspondent: A group of over 40 former officers of the Russian Ministry of Security who had been fired due to the ministry's reorganization came today in Tiraspol. They were engaged by the Dniester ministries of interior and security. Well-informed sources in Tiraspol told BASA that the transfer of former Russian KGB officers to Tiraspol was organized with the help of the Russian Democratic Liberal Party led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Kazakhstan

Kozyrev Arrives, Outlines Aims of Visit

LD0802195194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1936 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Almaty February 8 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has arrived in Almaty. The welcoming party at the airport included Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov and other officials.

A news conference for Russian and Kazakh correspondents was held at the airport. Kozyrev said the aim of his visit is to exchange opinion on a broad range of issues of mutual interest, primarily those on filling in with specific content the commonwealth treaty on economic union, bilateral military cooperation, implementation of the START-1 treaty and joint space exploration.

The sides also consider humanitarian issues, including citizenship, migration and consular activities.

The minister is expected to meet Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Wednesday morning to hand him over a personal message from President Boris Yeltsin. Then the interlocutors will have a tete-a-tete meeting to discuss major aspects of bilateral relations.

On Wednesday afternoon there will be negotiations of delegations from Russian and Kazakh foreign ministers that are expected to result in signing of several documents.

On Thursday the foreign minister will go to the Baykonur space launching grounds to meet heads of the space complex.

Meets With Nazarbayev

LD0902075694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0748 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Almaty February 9 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev began his official visit to Kazakhstan with a meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev today. The Russian minister had arrived in this republic on Tuesday evening. Kozyrev will also hold talks in the republic's Foreign Ministry, visit the Russian Embassy and meet the press.

Kozyrev's itinerary also includes visit to the Baykonur space complex and meetings with military and civil personnel there.

According to the foreign minister, this is a regular visit. He thinks that the more frequent and regular are such contacts between leaders of the two states, the lesser problems will be in relations between the states. Andrey Kozyrev said that during his meeting with the Kazakh president he will hand over him a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The range of questions for discussions in Kazakhstan, according to the minister, is quite wide. First of all it includes military-technical cooperation, the implementation of agreements of the START-1 Treaty and destruction of nuclear weapons. The two sides will also consider problems of giving a specific content to the economic union, discussions on such bilateral humanitarian problems as problems of citizenship, emigration and consular relations.

The Russian side is in favour of opening additional consulates in Kazakhstan and sign a consular convention in accordance with the treaty between the two countries. The sides will also consider specific agreements on humanitarian problems.

Work on Baykonur Issue 'To Speed Up'

LD0902122994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1144 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Almaty, 9 Feb—Agreement has been reached at talks with the Kazakhstan leadership in Almaty "to speed up work on the preparation of solutions on the space complex at Baykonur", Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev reported. Replying to a question from ITAR-TASS correspondents at the conclusion of talks today with Tuleutay Suleymenov, head of the foreign policy department of Kazakhstan, Kozyrev said that the sides intended to prepare a package of agreements on this problem in time for the coming Russian-Kazakhstan summit which is due to take place not later than the end of March.

Andrey Kozyrev is in Almaty on an official visit.

Comments on Talks

LD0902140194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Feb 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is continuing his visit to Kazakhstan.

[Correspondent Dukesh Baimbetov] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev debated a number of most important documents during a three-hour private conversation. These are a package of humanitarian agreements, issues of settling the migration processes, issues of military and space cooperation, and the problem of Baykonur. Incidentally, Kozyrev will visit the cosmodrome Baykonur tomorrow.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] Experts, expert groups, and above all legal specialists rather than demagogues and loud-mouths, in other words, people who know what this is all about will now sit down and make use of international experience and analyze our laws and the needs of specific people and will work out the relevant agreement and I assure you that it will have answers to 90 percent of the questions which specific people are raising. [end recording]

Holds News Conference

LD0902143894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Kulagin and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Almaty February 9 TASS—The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrey Kozyrev, held a press conference after spending two-and-a-half hours in talks behind closed doors with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

Kozyrev told reporters both sides made clear their desire to conduct in a business-like manner—without dragging feet or making haste—preparations for the next Commonwealth summit meeting. "It is time we had such a meeting because many mutual problems can be resolved only at the presidential level," Kozyrev said.

Responding to a question from ITAR-TASS, Kozyrev said that during his talks with Nazarbayev, they reached an agreement on focusing preparations on three main points—the drafting of an agreement on military cooperation, for which some points of principle have already been agreed; cooperation in Baykonur, which Kozyrev is due to visit on Thursday to take a closer look at the situation in the former Soviet space centre; and aspects of double citizenship and a humanitarian package.

The Russian minister dwelled in detail on the last point, because it was given much time and attention during his talks with Nazarbayev. This problems is most serious since it concerns very many people in Kazakhstan and Russia. But it should not be politicized or ideologized, or else viewed as inter-ethnic, Kozyrev said. Such an approach would play into the hand of nationalists in all Commonwealth countries. He said the question was of special concern to ethnic Russian and Russian-speaking people who found themselves in a very vulnerable situation as a result of current historical changes.

The big, central treaty to be signed by Russian with Kazakhstan will contain a package of agreements on these matters with solutions proposed at a world practice level.

The cardinal solution of the problem consists in giving every Russian and Kazakh the opportunity to fully exercise their rights. When moving from one country to the other, none of them should feel a foreigner. Other solutions to particular problems will be found, since the presidents of both countries think it necessary to speed up their preparation, including the drafting of the agreement on citizenship, in time for the Russian-Kazakhstan summit.

All this inspires hope that by the time of the signing of the bilateral agreements, all demagoguery will have exhausted its potential in this respect, Kozyrev said. Kozyrev was evidently referring to the position of Russian nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and other fascist-like and nationalist circles, who, according to Kozyrev, are seeking to fan the issue in order to aggravate the political struggle and bank on it.

They have no thought for the people when they seek to push nations to the verge of war. The problem can be solved by taking into account the interests of different ethnic groups on the basis of civilized, legal and peaceful approaches, Kozyrev said.

The Commonwealth is moving towards economic integration but not towards a split, Kozyrev stressed. This understanding was made clear to him during his visits to Tashkent and Almaty. "We reached an agreement with President Nazarbayev on setting up working groups which will work fast and on a fundamental basis.

Kozyrev resolutely rejected allegations of territorial claims between Commonwealth member states.

News Conference on President's Visit to U.S.

LD0802184994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov held a news conference tonight, which was was devoted to the upcoming official visit of the president of Kazakhstan to the United States. The head of the Foreign Ministry stressed that this would be the first personal contact of Nursultan Nazarbayev with President Bill Clinton. During the visit discussions will be held on possibilities of the United States and internbational organizations—with U.S. help—increasing financial support for Kazakhstan. The further involvement of U.S. companies in the privatization processes in our republic will be discussed. The talks will also deal with broadening the partnership in the field of science and technology, the foundation of a business council of cooperation of entrepreneurs, and other matters of interest to both parties. Joint documents will be signed on all these issues.

Uzbekistan

Kozyrev Holds News Conference in Tashkent 8 Feb

LD0802150394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1125 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is satisfied with the readiness of the Uzbek leadership to

discuss all issues, including the situation with the Russian-speaking population, and to work out solutions to these problems. The Russian foreign minister expressed his satisfaction at a press conference in Tashkent on Tuesday [8 February] after the negotiations with Uzbek Foreign Minister Saidmukhtar Said Asymov.

"These are sharp issues for people but we work to ease them and not to aggravate the situation through deterioration of state political relations," Kozyrev emphasized. He suggested that there would be "good draft proposals," including the ones on humanitarian issues worked out for the Russian-Uzbek summit in Moscow planned for February 25.

Earlier, when speaking at the Russian Embassy in Tashkent, Kozyrev pointed out that the situation with human rights of the Russian-speaking population had changed in comparison with that during his previous visit in November, 1993. "It is hard to give a definite evaluation. However, the element of mutual misunderstanding seems to have decreased," Kozyrev said.

He met with about 50 representatives of the Russian-speaking population gathered near the embassy. According to them, there were incidents connected with violation of human rights and even physical injuries.

Kozyrev announced that the parties had discussed not only juridical and humanitarian issues but also economic ones aimed at strengthening the economic union. In his words, the issue on a single system of settlement and correlation of the currencies' exchange rates was high on the agenda.

The military-political issues were also discussed. "I think we can recommend that the president sign a treaty on military-political cooperation with Uzbekistan," Kozyrev said.

Comments on Ethnic Issues

LD0802162994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is touring Central Asian countries. He spent the whole day today in Tashkent, where he held talks with the president of Uzbekistan.

[Correspondent Shakhnoza Ganiyeva] Andrey Kozyrev's working visit to Uzbekistan today began with talks at the republican Foreign Ministry. Subsequently he was received by Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov in the second half of the day.

The most acute problems of economic, military, political, and humanitarian cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan and also aspects of Islam Karimov's official visit to Russia, due toward the end of February, were discussed at the meeting.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] I think that we will arrive at a correct solution, so that we can help people as much as possible and irrespective of their nationality—and this also includes the Russian and Russophone population and also other citizens of both republics, both states—so that they can cross the border with ease and exchange money and dispose of their property as they see fit. These, in actual fact, are the issues people are interested in. Also, so that we can, of course, remove whatever tensions, as it were, that might arise in connection with the language and so on.

These issues must be dealt with professionally, dispassionately, without superfluous emotions, even though the problems themselves are extraordinarily emotive. However, they must be tackled in a level-headed manner.

I think that at any rate, we have made yet another step toward ensuring that these issues are examined in a correct manner and that they can be generally resolved when the two presidents have their meeting. [end recording]

Supports Promoting Relations

LD0802200694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is in Tashkent on a working visit. Let's listen to a report by our correspondent Maya Ganiyeva.

[Ganiyeva] The agenda for his brief visit is extremely packed. The day started with a meeting with representatives of the Russian diaspora in the embassy of the Russian Federation in Uzbekistan. The conversation was brief, and afterwards Kozyrev went to have talks with the republic's Foreign Minister Saidmukhtar Saidkasymov. Later, in the afternoon, he was received by Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov. At this meeting the most important problems of economic, military-political, and humanitarian cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan as well as matters of Islam Karimov's official visit to Russia scheduled for the end of February were discussed.

In an interview for our program Andrey Kozyrev said:

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] Our main problem is how to transfer our friendly relations onto a new track. In the conditions of the existence of independent states, a great many issues arise. But it must be said that we are examining them in a calm, businesslike, very frank way. And I think that we will find correct solutions here so as to give the maximum possible assistance to the Russian population and also other citizens in both states so that they will be able to easily cross the border, exchange money, and dispose of their property—this is what people are really interested it—well, and, of course, remove tension arising on the basis of language, etc. Here, it seems to me, the Uzbek side is displaying a very

constructive, specific approach—not an ideological one—and we do not want to ideologize or politicize these matters in some way.

[Ganiyeva] Andrey Vladimirovich, what is the view of Russia's Foreign Policy Department on the trilateral economic union of the Central Asian states?

[Kozyrev] Any accords between the republics—if they benefit their economic revival—these can only be to Russia's advantage. [end recording]

Karimov Orders Body for State Property, Private Business

LD0802202794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitri Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] President Islam Karimov has ordered to create a new committee for running state property and support for private business. His decree published on Tuesday provides for a merger of the existing State Property Committee and the Finance Ministry's State Property Fund.

The new body is designed to carry out uniform policies to create a mixed economy and set out plans and priorities in the country's denationalization campaign.

The committee is also authorized to protect the individual's property rights and to use the proceeds from the denationalization program for the country's economic restructuring.

The committee's other tasks include defining ways of luring foreign participation into the privatization campaign and creation of investment funds, consultancy and auditing services, realty firms and other market structures.

Under the presidential decree, the new committee's resolutions will be compulsory for ministries, companies, factories and offices and local government bodies.

Ostankino TV Cuts Broadcasting Hours

LD0902094494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Twice this morning the night-time news bulletin from Ostankino failed to appear in Uzbekistan. Recordings are usually shown at 0600 [0300 GMT] and 0900 local time, but at those times this morning a testcard appeared accompanied by audio of Uzbek radio. Programs later were broadcast according to schedule. An RIA correspondent was told at the television and radio company of Uzbekistan that this was done by the Ostankino company, which has announced cuts in broadcasting from 19 to 8.5-9 hours per day, because of a shortage of funds and debts to communication workers.

Armenia

President Discusses Karabakh With Britain's Hurd

LD0802232194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2048 GMT 8 Feb 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] London, 8 Feb—A broad range of issues, first and foremost the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, were discussed today during the meeting between Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who is in Britain on an official visit, and Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hurd. ITAR-TASS was told at the Foreign Office that the head of Britain's foreign affairs department called the exchange of views "quite useful," but also asked Yerevan to take specific measures to settle the conflict situation in this region, which is causing justifiable concern in London.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan explained his country's position on this problem and confirmed his support for the process of finding a political settlement started within the CSCE framework which, in his opinion, represents the best way to normalize the situation in this region. The Armenian president said the Russian Federation not only enjoys influence in the southern Caucasus but "should play a key role there."

Borders Calm; Azerbaijani Planes Bomb Stepanakert

NC0802195694 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reports that a relative calm has prevailed on Armenia's borders for the last two days. No incidents have been registered.

Azerbaijani planes violated the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] air space several times today.

The NKR Defense Army press service reported that cluster bombs were dropped on Stepanakert's suburbs at around 1330. The consequences of the bombing is being determined.

The enemy intensively shelled the Karabakh positions in the north of Mardakertskiy Rayon along Matagis-Akop-Kamari line this afternoon. The Armenian fighters resorted to counter measures.

No substantial changes took place on the rest of the fronts; a relative calm was maintained.

Azeri 'Offensive' Reported

NC0902111394 Yerevan SNARK in English 0913 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Stepanakert, February 9 (SNARK)—This morning the Azerbaijani Army again undertook the offensive in the south-eastern direction of the Karabakh front. Press-Service of the Karabakh Defence Army told SNARK the attackers met the well-organized counteractions of the Karabakh troops. According to the data received by 11 a.m., the battles are going on.

The situation at the other parts of the front: positional firings. No changes.

Karabakh: China Provides Arms to Azerbaijan

NC0802214894 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Manuel Sargisyan, adviser to the foreign minister of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], said that the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces captured Chinese-made automatic rifles, machine guns, and cannons from the Azerbaijanis.

It was learned from the interrogation of the Azerbaijani prisoners that China has sent arms totaling 100,000 pieces to Azerbaijan.

Bagratyan, IMF Official Discuss Financial Policy

NC0802201294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1427 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Yerevan, February 8 (SNARK)—The financial policy of the Armenian Government inspires an optimism because it is aimed to a decrease of the budget deficit. Mohammed Shadman, the head of the IMF's delegation, said it during the meeting with Grant Bagratyan, the prime-minister of Armenia.

Press-Center of the Armenian Government informs SNARK the representatives of IMF assured that IMF will support the financial policy of Armenia.

Meanwhile, recently, Armen Egiazaryan, the minister of economy of Armenia, said to SNARK's reporter that till IMF abstains from monetary relief for Armenia, fearing that this relief will go for military purposes. [sentence as received]

Government Authorized Border Trade With Iran

PM0802145794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "Armenian Border Trade with Iran Being Set Up"]

[Text] Yerevan—The Armenian Government has authorized the republic's Megrinskiy Rayon to begin border trade with Iran's neighboring province.

Meanwhile, even before the official document was signed, Iranian goods had become a permanent feature on the Armenian market. In the very center of Yerevan there is a brisk trade in paraffin stoves, oriental sweetmeats, textiles, and other goods in increased demand.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Requests Turkish Help at Ankara Dinner

LD0902123994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1027 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 9 Feb—Turkey advocates an "immediate, complete and unconditional" withdrawal of Armenian forces from the areas of Azerbaijan they have seized. This was stated yesterday by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel during a dinner in honor of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev, who is paying an official visit to Ankara. The Turkish leader noted that sooner or later, the Armenians would be forced to leave occupied Azerbaijani territory.

Turkey and Azerbaijan, Demirel said, have decided to strengthen bilateral cooperation not just at the interstate level, but also in international organizations like the United Nations, the CSCE, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and regional economic groupings. The Turkish Republic will continue to assist Azerbaijan and support its "integration" with the international community.

The talks in Ankara, the Turkish president stressed, have been held in a candid atmosphere. "There are no problems in our bilateral relations," he said.

In his turn, Aliyev said that he was "determined" to preserve Azerbaijan's independence and to liberate territory under Armenian occupation. The young Azerbaijani Republic needs Turkish help. "We are two states," he said, "but one nation."

The same day, the Azerbaijani president held talks with the Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. Aliyev is reported to have said that he might agree to the presence, under CSCE auspices, of Russian and foreign forces in the republic. He gave it to be understood that the question of building a pipeline to carry Azerbaijani oil across Turkish territory to the Mediterranean "will be decided in the near future."

A number of bilateral agreements on development of economic cooperation are expected to be signed today.

Commentary Views Aliyev's Visit to Turkey

NC0802211594 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary: "President Aliyev's Visit to Turkey"]

[Excerpts] President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Turkey is the most important recent development. Aliyev will hold talks with President Suleyman Demirel and several officials in that country. What do our people expect from his visit?

Azerbaijan's Turkic people have a problem at the present time. A way must be found to end the war in the Republic, which has continued for six years. A way must be found to quickly end the aggression and fighting. The Armenian military forces must withdraw from the territories they have occupied in Azerbaijan. In short, Azerbaijan's people want the aggressor to be punished and peace and security to be reestablished.

Undoubtedly, neighboring countries must give support to Azerbaijan to help it end the Armenian aggression. That is essential. They must help us convey Azerbaijan's just and honest views to the world.

Turkey is one of the countries that help Azerbaijan establish peace and security on its territory. That country has significant political influence in the world. In view of that, we have vested significant hope in Turkey's support for Azerbaijan's effort to sign a peace agreement to quickly end the war. The hope we have vested in Turkey is based on many things. The language, religion, and traditions of the two peoples are very similar. We have a common language, religion, history, and literature. The two peoples have been attacked throughout history. They have waged a joint struggle against the enemy.

We wish to recall the tragic incidents the Armenians created in Azerbaijan early in the century. Drawing strength from their supporters, the Dachnak Armenians carried out bloody massacres in Azerbaijan. Armenian terrorist activities were widespread in our Republic. Turkey extended a helping hand to Azerbaijan's people at the time. It took an active part in the effort our people made to evict the Dachnak Armenians from our territory. However, the Dachnak Armenians took action once again 70 years later. Their new action is based on many reasons. You may ask why the Turkic peoples do not move against a handful of Armenians? It is common knowledge that the Armenians have never been alone in their bloody crimes against the Turkic peoples. Powerful and influential countries have always supported them behind the scenes. The Armenians have been used as an instrument.

The Armenians also created tragic incidents in Turkey. They wished to divide that country early in the century. However, Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, succeeded in creating unity in that country and achieved victory.

It is as if history is repeating itself. Aggressive circles have drawn up bloody designs against Azerbaijan's Turkic people. They wish to divide and fragment Azerbaijan to usurp its resources. However, they will not realize their objectives. Azerbaijan's sons have arisen. That has been confirmed by our national Army's recent victories.

Turkey is the only country whose policy toward Azerbaijan complies with its intentions. Several of Azerbaijan's neighbors maintain a biased approach on the fighting in our Republic. Vague and deliberate reports are frequently published in their newspapers. In fact, several of

them claim that Karabakh is a historic Armenian territory and argue that the pressure on the Armenians in Karabakh kindled the war in the region. [passage omitted]

It would be better if the neighboring countries helped Azerbaijan at this difficult time to convey its just and honest views to the world. That is because Azerbaijan needs moral support more than material aid. Deliberately vague views confuse the international community.

It must be stressed that the Armenians have occupied more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory and more than 1,000,000 peaceful residents have become refugees. Turkey has been the only country to convey our just and honest views to the international community and to take serious action in international organizations. In view of that, we are convinced that President Aliyev's official visit to Turkey will further enhance the cultural unity and friendly relations between the two countries. We are also convinced that Turkey will expose the true nature of the Armenian aggression to the international community.

We wish success to President Aliyev. We hope that the outcome of his visit will be successful and auspicious.

Aliyev Tells Va'ezi Conditions 'Unacceptable'

LD0802165994 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, Feb. 8, IRNA—The visiting Iranian deputy foreign minister Mahmud Va'ezi met here Monday night [7 February] with Azeri President Geydar Aliyev who called for the speedy implementation of the agreements already reached between the two countries. The Azeri president termed the last October visit to Baku of his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as a "turning point" in bilateral relations and congratulated the 15th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Aliyev also expressed hope that in his next month visit to Tehran he would discuss new ways to promote bilateral relations with the Iranian official. Outlining latest developments in Karabakh conflict, the Azeri president reiterated Baku's willingness to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

He called as "unacceptable" the existing conditions offered by Armenia for the establishment of peace in Karabakh and stressed that Azerbaijan was fully ready to defend its territorial integrity.

Va'ezi, in charge of Euro-American affairs of Iran's Foreign Ministry, emphasized that he would try to remove the existing obstacles on the way of the implementation of Tehran-Baku agreements. The Iranian official arrived here yesterday on a three- day visit during which he will inaugurate Iran's new consulate here.

He held talks with Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov upon arrival.

Russian Troops Said To Prepare for Stationing

NC0802163494 Baku TURAN in English 0028 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Baku (February 7) TURAN—A group of Russian military inspectors presently is visiting Ganja, Press Center of the Popular [People's] Front of Azerbaijan reports states, citing a reliable source.

The inspection is aimed at researching the situation and material-technical conditions of the former Russian landing-troops military base #104, which was withdrawn from Ganja in May 1993 under President Elchibey.

TURAN believe that the military inspection by Russian officers testifies that plans for a Russian troop return to Azerbaijan is being carried out. Though officially, Baku denies this, reports from Moscow prove that the return of Russian troops to Azerbaijan is practically agreed upon. TURAN news agency has reported that one of the Russian military bases will be stationed in Ganja. Moreover, Moscow insists on stationing its landing forces in Lenkoran and Nakhichevan, it also demands the creation of Russian Air Forces base on a former Soviet Air Forces base in Azerbaijan.

Defense Ministry Cited on Armenians Regrouping

NC0802143294 Baku TURAN in English 0028 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Baku (February 7) TURAN—Local fighting continued along the front during yesterday, according to a source at the Azeri Defense Ministry.

According to the information available, Armenian commanders carries out the regrouping of its forces at the northern (Agdere) and southern (Fizuli) sectors of the front. Extra units and armored equipment is being transported there.

As soldiers of the Azeri army report, the most of the destroyed Armenian tanks and arms were made in Russia in 1993. The seized arms testify that Armenians receive arms from Russia and other countries. As reported earlier, Russian aircraft transporting hardware made tens of trips from Sochi to Gumri. According to the reports of the Western sources from Armenia, these aircraft transported arms and fuel to Armenia.

Aliyev Need for 'Limited Victory' Viewed

PM0902100994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by political expert Aleksandr Iskandaryan: "Geydar Aliyev Needs Victory at the Front in Order To Begin Peace Talks"]

[Text] Tank fighting comparable in scale with medium-sized battles of World War II has been continuing for nearly two months on the North Nagorno-Karabakh plain. At the same time pitched battles are under way close to Azerbaijan's border with Iran. Why is this

happening right now, when both sides have little hope of resolving the conflict by military means?

A few months ago Armenian troops won such convincing victories that it seemed that Azerbaijan had no army left at all. Nonetheless since mid-December the Azerbaijan troops have been making successful advances despite powerful resistance.

President Elchibey's unsuccessful attempts to leave Russia's zone of influence and to appeal to Turkey have ended in the realistic Geydar Aliyev coming to power and to Azerbaijan joining the CIS. The latter event is of a partly paradoxical nature since Azerbaijan believes its opponent in the Karabakh war to be not Karabakh as such but Armenia and the CIS thus becomes the only alliance of states of its kind in which two members are at war. This state of affairs automatically assigns Russia, as the nucleus of the CIS, a stabilizing role in the conflict. By the very fact that it has joined the CIS Azerbaijan is unambiguously claiming what is already due to Georgia in the light of its treaty with Russia—the consolidation of its national army.

Five conditions are being set at the secret talks between Russia and Azerbaijan. They include the protection of Azerbaijan's foreign borders by forces of the Russian border troops, the presence of Russian military bases on Azerbaijani territory, the creation of a 12-mile Azerbaijani maritime zone on the Caspian oil shelf instead of the 50-mile zone on which Baku is insisting, recognition of Russia as the only mediator in the Karabakh conflict, and Azerbaijan's recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic in one form or another. These speculations are partly confirmed by the statement made by Grachev in Tbilisi to the effect that Russia will have military bases in all three Transcaucasus republics while there is no public agreement with Azerbaijan on this score. Russia's role could prove very constructive if only because Russian troops, expelled by Elchibey, will appear on Azerbaijan's territory.

Something else is also undoubted: Such steps would be extremely unpopular inside Azerbaijan and only a leader with very strong positions in his own country would venture to take them. At present Geydar Aliyev does not have such a credit of trust with the population. The leadership of this country at war can effectively enhance its popularity rating by only one means: successes at the front.

In that case Baku's strategy is as follows: to achieve a "limited" military victory with a view to strengthening Aliyev's prestige. He thus gets carte blanche for concessions and steps toward peace. Actually, it should not be forgotten that on the other side of the front line are the field commanders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, who have no time for big-league politics. They have no intention of strengthening Aliyev's reputation, do not agree to a "limited" military defeat, and are ferociously defending every meter of Karabakh land.

Georgia

Premier Voices Concern Over Abkhaz Situation

LD0802182594 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The press center of the Cabinet of Ministers reports that Republic of Georgia Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia today received Mr. Fedor Starcevic, the permanent UN representative to Georgia.

During the meeting, the premier expressed concern over recent events in Abkhazia. The Abkhaz side has for a fourth time violated the Geneva agreement. On 6 February groups of armed militants attacked the Georgian population, killing 60 people and taking many people prisoner. Villlages were burned down. Militants also attacked a village in Tsalenjikha Rayon, killing five people.

About 3,000 people, including children and women, are sheltering in a gorge. It is difficult to evacuate them from there due to thick snow. The premier said that everything is being done to evacuate the population.

Heavy equipment, including 12 tanks, has been used to eliminate the Georgian population. Militants of Chechen, Cossack, and other nationalities had been brought to the area on Ikarus buses.

The premier stressed that the authorities of the Republic of Georgia have been doing everything to achieve a political settlement of the conflict. Not a single armed Georgian fighter is in the area.

The premier asked Mr. Starcevic to convey to the United Nations full information on the current situation in Abkhazia and force the separatists to observe the Geneva agreement.

Parliament Prepares International Appeal

LD0802220394 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpts] A meeting of the Georgian Parliament was held today. The first issue on the agenda was the law on firearms.

This draft law was submitted by the Judicial Commission and was introduced to deputies by Givi Lominadze [the chairman of the Provisional Committee for Emergencies in western Georgia].

There is also an alternative draft prepared by the Law and Order Commission.

Members of parliament are unanimous that it is very important for the country to adopt a firearms law. However, the process has been going on for quite a long time.

Before discussing the agenda, parliament started a debate on MP Vazha Otarashvili's proposal on the

handover to parliament of the construction of the Cabinet of Ministers. Some members of parliament even called this proposal provocative. It was noted that issues like this could not be decided so simply. There were quite a few ethical and technical difficulties. It was also necessary to take into account the Cabinet of Ministers' opinion about the issue.

In examining the draft law on firearms, deputies mainly debated articles of the law relating to arms manufacturing and trade. Some deputies were in favor of a state monopoly on both, the manufacturing and trade. There was also the different view that supported the issue of licences to the private sector to conduct both these activities.

In the opinion of Givi Lominadze, one of the members of the judicial commission, the private sector should be allowed to manufacture arms, while only the state could trade in arms. [passage omitted]

After a break, parliament continued work. However, voting on the issue was postponed because of Deputy Speaker Vakhtang Rcheulishvili's announcement that Abkhazians had attacked villages in Gali Rayon. Civilians, including women, children and the elderly had fled to the woods for shelter.

The Georgian Parliament decided to prepare an appeal to be sent to the United Nations, Russia, and the other countries that are playing the role of peace guarantors in Abkhazia.

Pressure Against Separatists Sought

LD0802214494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Georgian Government called on Moscow to impose urgent measures to stop "the policy of genocide against ethnic Georgians" carried out by Abkhaz separatists in Gudauta.

Its statement was read out in parliament by Deputy Speaker Vakhtang Rcheushvili in Tbilisi late on Tuesday.

It speaks of a disastrous situation in the Abkhkazian region of Gal in which five other Georgian villages were razed to the ground following the return of Georgian refugees from western Georgia. In the last few days, as many as 60 people were shot dead and dozens of others taken hostage in that region. Over 800 houses were destroyed.

The official said some 3,000 Georgians had been forced to flee for shelter to nearby woods and that Tbilisi was now trying to find a way of helping them.

Ten other busloads of militants from the Northern Caucasus arrived in Abkhazia on Monday and Tuesday, the Deputy Speaker said referring to anonymous sources.

Abkhaz Fighting Reported in Western Georgia

LD0802163894 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1432 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Recent events in Abkhazia show clearly that by disregarding the Geneva agreements on a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia and Russia's mediation, the separatists have again embarked on the path of violence and bloodshed.

On 5 February of this year, villages in the so-called upper zone of Gali Rayon were barbarically despoiled and burned down by Gudauta militants, who arrived on 16 Ikarus buses and were armed with 10 pieces of heavy equipment.

All this was carried out on the false pretext of the elimination of Georgian guerrilla units hiding in the rayon.

The villages of Okhumi and Mukhuri were burned down. Some 100 residential houses were burned down in other villages.

About 3,000 civilians in the rayon who represented not only Georgian but also other nationalities were driven by separatists into the surrounding woods, where the snow level is reaching one and a half meters. In effect, defenseless women and children were condemned to death from cold and starvation.

In the village of Okumi, dozens of civilians were killed in a punitive raid carried out by Cossack militants.

This morning Abkhaz separatists, with the active support of their North Caucasian hirelings, launched an offensive on Tsalenjikha Rayon in western Georgia, where refugees from the upper zone [of Gali Rayon] were trying to find shelter.

Abkhaz Operations Continue; 4 Dead

LD0902120194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1102 GMT 9 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 9 Feb—The Republic of Abkhazia's Armed Forces are completing the operation to neutralize the inidividual groupings of Georgian armed formations which infiltrated Gali Rayon, Abkhazia. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from a well-informed source within republican leadership that Abkhazian formations have taken under guard the main cascade of the Inguri GES, a motor road bridge across the river Inguri as well as a number of important industrial facilities. Local operations are being conducted in individual sections of the coastal area of Gali Rayon. According to the above official, combat operations in the republic's border rayon will be completed in a day or two.

Earlier, in the morning, two coaches with Abkhazian servicemen exploded on a mine in the center of the town of Gali. The explosion killed four people and injured nine.

Russian Ministers, Ioseliani View Summit

AU0802171194 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 3

[Interviews with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations, Boris Pastukhov, Russian first deputy minister for foreign affairs, Dzhaba Ioseliani, chairman of the Interim Committee for the State of Emergency Under the Head of State, head of the Georgian delegation at the Geneva talks on a settlement of the Abkhazian conflict, by Inga Abgarova and Tinatin Gviniashvili in Tbilisi on 3 February: "The Participants in the Negotiations Speak"]

[Text] **General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense:**

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **What have you agreed upon today at the meeting with the Georgian side?**

[Grachev] We have signed a protocol on intent; I have in mind the setting up of Russian military bases in Georgia. The establishment of three bases is planned: in Tbilisi, in the region of Vaziani, Akhalkalaki, and Batumi. The Batumi base will have branches in Sukhumi, Poti, and Gudauta. They will be created on the basis of troops of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus [GRFT] currently located in these areas. These are primarily ground troops and air forces; helicopters, a few Su-25 type attack aircraft, and some fighter-bomber aircraft. The plan includes stationing Black Sea Fleet warships in the Poti region. Where a specific base will be located and the operational task it will fulfill will depend on geography. They will be set up by 1 July 1994.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **What will be the direct tasks of these bases?**

[Grachev] Ensuring the security of Russia and the states in the Transcaucasus region that are part of the Treaty on Collective Security.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Has the question of border troops been resolved?**

[Grachev] I can only say that the joint border between Georgia and Russia that exists today will not be moved.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Pavel Sergeyevich, has the question of bringing the Russian troops deployed in Abkhazia under the command of GRFT commander General Reut finally been resolved?**

[Grachev] All troops located in Georgia are subordinate to General Reut with the exception of the 345th Airborne Regiment. This regiment is directly subordinate to me and is my strategic reserve.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **To whom will the Russian troops who are to fulfill the role of peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia be subordinate, and who will finance them?**

[Grachev] The peacekeeping forces will be under the command of Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, deputy defense minister. As for their financing, this is a painful question. We still do not have a UN Security Council mandate enabling Russian troops carrying out a peacekeeping mission in countries of the former USSR to be peacekeepers under the aegis of the UN. Therefore, they do not pay us and we have to bear the expenses ourselves. Nevertheless, we are not abandoning our mission, viewing Georgia as a single entity. However, this is both Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Dzhaba Ioseliani, member of Parliament, chairman of the Interim Committee for the State of Emergency:

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Batono [Georgian polite form of address] Dzhaba, how effective is the method of settling Abkhazian problems by means of the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone?**

[Ioseliani] I do not see any other way out of the situation that has been created. This is the most civilized way. The peacekeeping forces will, I hope, be able to restore order and peace on Abkhazian land.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Was the question of the return of refugees to Abkhazia examined separately?**

[Ioseliani] We presented to the Russian side a plan for the stage-by-stage return of the refugees. Work on it will be recorded in a document. I am certain that everything will be fine as far as this question is concerned.

Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs:

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **It is no secret that there were many people in Russia who were opposed to the president coming to Tbilisi and signing a treaty with Georgia. How do you, as a diplomat, assess this step and the significance of the visit?**

[Kozyrev] Boris Nikolayevich is president and, as such, on hearing all opinions, he adopts the only courageous decision that immediately represents a significant step forward. The most important thing in the signing of this treaty is that it is a huge incentive to achieve a political settlement in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This is the most important thing.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **The problem of returning refugees to Abkhazia is of great concern to us....**

[Kozyrev] To us also. I hope that a decision will be adopted on the signing of an agreement that is coordinated with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which will result in the beginning of this process. This is a key issue and it is very strange that certain difficulties have arisen precisely with the Georgian side.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Nevertheless, as it turns out, Russia's interests in Georgia are great.**

[Kozyrev] Russia's strategic and geopolitical interests have always been closely connected with Georgia. I do not think we should fear such an expression as Russia's vital interests; and, on the other side, Georgia's vis-a-vis Russia. The only problem is that we should regard this visit by President Yeltsin to Georgia not as a substitute for efforts to regulate the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia but, on the contrary, as an incentive to achieve a settlement.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **How do you see the future of Abkhazia?**

[Kozyrev] I believe that the future of Abkhazia lies within the sphere of the territorial integrity of Georgia; in the acquisition by it of the corresponding political, legal, and economic status and in the division of powers and rights between, let us say, the center and Abkhazia. If both sides show enough common sense and do not aim for a resolution of this problem by force, they will be able to take advantage of this propitious chance and the services offered by Russia, and develop some kind of principle that will enable both Abkhazia and Georgia to occupy themselves on the whole not with military but peaceful matters. **General Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations:**

"The Abkhazian problem will be regulated if the sides do not hinder this."

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **General, do you think that, this time, Russia will cope with its role as peacekeeper in Georgia?**

[Shoygu] Yes, provided the Georgian and Abkhazian sides do not hinder this.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **What about the last time...?**

[Shoygu] Last time: I said two weeks prior to your surrender of Sukhumi that all this will end in a big war. I will not participate in this bloodbath. That was why I tendered my resignation.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **What is your prediction regarding events in Abkhazia?**

[Shoygu] A most sad one. Look, we are returning to what we should have done four months ago. I suggested bringing into Abkhazia a regiment under the control of UN observers in order to establish order. The same thing is now being suggested but I think the opportunity has been missed.

Boris Pastukhov, Russian Federation first deputy minister of foreign affairs:

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Mr. Pastukhov, you participated directly in the resolution of questions concerning the conflict in Abkhazia and Georgian problems in general. What, in your view, awaits Russian-Georgian relations in the future?**

[Pastukhov] Our full-fledged cooperation, including economic cooperation, is only just beginning. The point is that we all have had considerable success in destroying and wrecking a lot of things. Moreover, what is now going on in our countries is retribution.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Do you think that the ratification of the treaty signed today will be a problem in the Russian Duma?**

[Pastukhov] No treaties are ratified without problems. However, in this case, much depends on how we work in the sphere of regulation and whether we prove our good intentions with deeds: So that the treaty does not remain empty words but becomes something of principle, something big, and something that will guide the destiny of our peoples.

Shevardnadze Appoints Representative to UNESCO

LD0802215294 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1432 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] By decree of the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, Gocha Chogovadze has been appointed permanent representative of the Republic of Georgia to UNESCO.

Estonia

Envoy To Lodge Protest Against Russian Remarks

LD0902123394 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Juri Kahn, ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Moscow, has been charged with the task of protesting in connection with the continued Russian campaign of statements which fabricate and distort reality in the Republic of Estonia. This was reported to BNS [Baltic News Service] today by the Estonian Foreign Ministry's press service. The ministry's press representative, Mari-Ann Rikken, said that Juri Kahn is due to present Estonia's protest to Russian officials in the course of the day.

Repeated attempts by top Russian officials to stick slanderous labels to Estonia have been directed at influencing the world public and international organizations. These are attempts to isolate Estonia [words indistinct] The news item states that Estonian legislation allows every individual to acquire citizenship regardless of their ethnic origin. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated yesterday that about one third of the population in Estonia and in other Baltic countries is being segregated along the ethnic principle.

Foreign Minister Views Problems in Talks With Russia

LD0902013894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Video report by Heimar Lenk—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] From the first meeting, the most important question for the Estonian side has been the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic and the most important for the Russian side has been the protection of its citizens on the territory of independent Estonia. Evidently neither of the sides intends to retreat from their initial positions. Estonia has not softened its conditions for local Russians to receive Estonian citizenship. Russia, just as it promised three years ago, intends to withdraw its troops by September this year, at the same time it demands normal living conditions for military pensioners who wish to stay and live in Estonia.

Commenting on the present situation, Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik noted that Russia does not yet accept Estonia as an equal partner. The concern of Tallinn politicians is understandable since Russia, even after the withdrawal of its troops, will still have a powerful weapon to influence Estonia's policies—the almost half a million strong Russian-speaking community that has not yet received Estonian citizenship and is, therefore, under Russia's particular attention.

So, although the talks are not justifying the hopes, it is not worth breaking them off either, the Estonian Foreign Ministry considers.

Worries About Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD0802152194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Juri Luik has commented on Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's interview to the [word indistinct] NEWSWEEK weekly. [Words indistinct] With the Helsinki Final Act, Russia took upon herself an unambiguous obligation to withdraw her troops from Estonia quickly, in an orderly manner and completely. The UN General Assembly and CSCE foreign ministers have been demanding the same of Russia. Keeping in mind such a consensus on the part of the world public, each Russian hint which casts doubt on the withdrawal of the Russian troops must be seen as violating crudely the international behavior standards, said Juri Luik. The Russian foreign minister's hint that the Western countries' request for Russia to observe elementary standards of international communication and honor unconditionally the sovereignty of her neighboring countries would (?play a trump card) into [Vladimir] Zhirinovskiy's hands remains completely unclear to the [Estonian] foreign minister. Against this background, Juri Luik recalls with worry that despite previous promises Russia failed to hand over to Estonia a timetable for the troop withdrawal during the recently ended 16th round of talks and not one Russian serviceman left Estonia in January.

Previews Baltic Meeting in Denmark

LD0902110994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0700 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Juri Luik flew to Copenhagen an hour ago. The foreign ministers of all three Baltic countries will be meeting there today at an invitation from the Danish foreign minister. I have asked Juri Luik by telephone what exactly is going to happen in the Danish capital.

[Begin Luik recording] A quadripartite meeting will take place, with foreign ministers of the three Baltic countries and Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen attending. We will discuss the Baltic countries taking part in the work of international organizations, the Baltic security policy will be discussed, with the key issue being Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian integration into NATO and the European Union. [passage omitted]

There will definitely be talk of the security situation in the Baltic region, with the recent Russian statements, [Russian Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev's latest, very worrying statements and interviews under discussion. I think that we will formulate a joint position on this matter and I am almost certain that it will be negative [words indistinct] [end recording]

Case Brought Against Zhirinovskiy Party Official

WS0902112694 Tallinn BNS in English 0751 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 08, BNS—Estonia on Friday [4 February] initiated criminal proceedings against Pyotr Rozhok, the representative of Russia's radical nationalist Liberal Democratic Party in Estonia.

Charges were brought under Article 72 of the criminal code, the minister of population, Peeter Olesk, said.

Olesk told a BNS correspondent that Rozhok now cannot be deported from the country—and that there is no reason to do so—before the case is brought to a conclusion.

The issue also stood on the agenda of today's meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Cabinet heard the opinion of Interior Minister Heiki Arike on the issue.

The director general of the Defense Police, Juri Pihl, said it was his department that had initiated the criminal case. "He has not been arrested so far," Pihl said.

Rozhok in an interview with BNS at about 4 p.m. today said he knew nothing of the charges brought against him. He said he had no contacts with the security police recently.

The representative of Zhirinovskiy's party in Estonia said he had no intention to leave the country. "But why?" he asked, explaining that he is living on a territory that is Russia's domain for ages.

Vasili Ostapchuk, adviser at the Russian Embassy in Tallinn, said Rozhok had not turned to the embassy for help. "If Rozhok appeals to us for help, we can act under the consular convention and the legal assistance agreement," he said.

The criminal code's Article 72 foresees punishments ranging from fines to one year in prison for activity aimed at instigating ethnic, racial or religious hostility.

Rozhok in his public statements on several occasions has expressed views hostile toward Estonia. In an interview with the SILLAMAESKI VESTNIK newspaper of the northeast Estonian town of Sillamae last month he called on Russian army veterans to form paramilitary units "for defending the (Russians') honor and dignity" and again claimed Estonia was Russia's traditional domain.

Rozhok is legally a citizen of Russia since May 28, 1992.

Laar: Israeli Consignment Not Up to Standard

WS0902115694 Tallinn BNS in English 0753 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 08, BNS—Some of the consignments of cartridges that arrived in Estonia under the country's arms purchase deal with Israel are not in full keeping with the demands set in the agreement, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said in a press conference today.

Laar said Estonia had delivered its notification to Israel and the issue is to be settled soon.

"The arms purchase agreement is a detailed one and ensures full control of the arms that are arriving," he explained.

The head of Estonia's Central Staff, Colonel Ants Laaneots, at a meeting with the chairman of the Committee of Directors of Israel's military industries, General Dan Shomron on Monday [7 February] delivered his department's claims regarding the completeness of the weapons consignment.

The prime minister in his remarks indicated there was no connection between the additional arms given by Israel as gift to Estonia and "possible irregularities" in fulfilling the arms deal. Israel granted to Estonia a consignment of older Soviet-made trophy weapons.

"Estonia's arms purchase was a very successful one, and in addition were given a gift. Surely we will also in the future consider the possibility of complementing our supply of arms and technical equipment with the help of Israel. For the time being we must determine our defense concept and make clear what kind of army and weapons we need," Laar told BNS.

He said Israel offered a wide variety of military equipment, including border guarding technologies.

Russia Removes Seamines From Tallinn Bay Base

WS0802122894 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Tallin, Feb 08 (BNS)—Russian naval ships on Jan. 26 carried 48 seamines of newer types from the island of Naissaar in the Bay of Tallinn to the Russian navy's Lomonosov base in the Leningrad region.

According to information obtained by BNS, there are no more newer-type seamines in the Naissaar base. Russia now continues destroying its supply of older types of mines by burining them on the island. The Naissaar base as recently as Dec. 1, 1993 was reported to have a stock of some 1,280 seamines, including 80 of the newer types.

Estonian authorities until now don't know the exact number of Russian military staying in the country. Sources in the Central Staff of the Estonian defense forces said different estimates put the number at 2,700-3,000.

There has been no remarkable movement of Russian military from the country in January, neither have any major changes taken place in the structure of the Russian units still stationed in Estonia. Some technical equipment, however, has been taken out, officials said.

Russia's chief negotiator for talks with Estonia, Vasili Svirin, in early December said his country had about 2,600-strong military presence in Estonia.

Reports by the 2nd department of the Estonian Central Staff say Russian naval forces account for about 1,100-1,200 of the remaining troops. About 300-400 are still present in different kinds of auxiliary units and supply depots. Some 500 Russian officers and noncommissioned officers whose units have left the Estonian territory are also staying in the country.

Russian units of any remarkable size are stationed only in Tallinn and the surrounding Harju region.

Latvia

Kozyrev 'Ethnic Cleansing' Charge Rejected

LD0802173894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Latvian Foreign Ministry issued a statement today concerning the claims made by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in an interview with the U.S. journal NEWSWEEK. As the Foreign Ministry statement says, in the interview Kozyrev reported that Latvia is attempting to deport thousands of people to Russia, which he called ethnic cleansing. In this connection, the Latvian Foreign Ministry states that these claims are baseless. The Latvian Government, reacting to statements of this kind from Russian officials, has repeatedly pointed out that allegations of ethnic cleansing do not correspond to the truth, the document emphasizes. The Latvian Foreign Ministry believes that the attitude expressed by the Russian Foreign Ministry proves that senior Russian officials are blatantly ignoring the conclusions of international institutions at several levels regarding the real human rights situation in Latvia.

Birkavs on Need To Sign Withdrawal Agreement

LD0902121994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] And now let us look at yesterday's news conference, because a very important issue for Latvia was discussed there.

Because at the end of the day, the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Skrunda and the dismantling of the Skrunda radar station are currently the most topical issues for Latvian security policy. The government is currently working on Latvian stance at talks with our eastern neighboring state and on the signing of corresponding agreements. And Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs is reporting about that.

[Begin Birkavs recording] Now it has become more or less clear to everyone that security is really the number one priority for Latvia and I would say for the whole Baltics. Taking into account that the talks with Russia are entering the decisive phase, I think that we have to give a wide and complete idea of what will happen if we conclude the agreement and what will happen if we do not conclude the agreement.

Latvia has to conclude an agreement with Russia on possibly earlier troop withdrawal and the deadline is 31 August. Skrunda is to be left here for four years and 18 months. With our strong stance not to yield, we have practically secured very stable support for Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania from American and European states and a guarantee that they will support us and that they will bolster us, but this agreement has to be concluded. These signals which come from other countries of the world. They will considerably intensify in the future, as soon as the agreement is concluded and they will become particularly active after the 31st when there will be no [Russian] Army here. [end recording]

However, as the experience shows, agreements concluded with Russia do not at all mean that they will be really complied with and Valdis Birkavs is continuing about possible guarantees in such case.

[Begin Birkavs recording] We wish to begin the dismantling [of the Skrunda radar] much sooner and I hope that we will succeed in it. However, while it is worked on—and the Russian side, at least at the previous talks, agreed—we will also work on a corresponding security mechanism, which means that the system of international security guarantees would come into effect in the event that the agreement is not complied with. [end recording]

This is an excerpt from yesterday's press conference, at which Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs was speaking.

Document Package on Radar Station Agreement

LD0802180894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1735 GMT 8 Feb 94

[by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Dmitriy Chubarov]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS - Russia can operate a radar station in Skrunda, Latvia, for another four years, under a package of documents prepared for signing by a recent round of the Russian-Latvian state negotiations on Russian troops withdrawal from Latvia, Russian delegation head Sergey Zotov told a briefing here today. The station will enjoy additional 18 months for dismantling.

The sides discussed the main agreement on troops withdrawal and agreements on social protection of servicemen and military pensioners, as well as the legal status and conditions of the radar station functioning.

"We have only technical issues left. Their immediate solution will give way to the finalization of the whole package of agreements to be submitted to the Russian and Lithuanian [as received] governments for signing," said Zotov.

Zotov said the Russian Government may receive the agreements by the end of this month.

Ulmanis Receives Letter From Clinton on Skrunda

LD0802195394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igoro Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a letter to Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis which expresses confidence that Latvia will not view the agreement with Russia on the schedule and terms of the temporary use of Russia's radar in Skrunda as "humiliating or imposed," the Latvian president's office announced.

IF Note: During talks in Moscow on Monday, the Latvian and Russian delegations came to an agreement that the radar would function over the next four years and would be dismantled during the 18 months following the expiration of that term.

If Latvia accepts these terms, Russia will remove its troops from Latvia by August 31, 1994. Earlier, Russia had intended to use it over the next five years. Latvia insisted on three years plus one more year for the dismantling of the radar.

During a Latvian governmental delegation's visit to Washington last week, U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher recommended that Latvia and Russia come to terms on the temporary use of the radar in the village of Skrunda.

Clinton wrote in his letter that a compromise would be the best solution, as it will ensure the Russian troops' withdrawal this year.

He also expressed confidence that the work done during the Latvian delegation's visit to Washington had ensured progress in the Latvian-Russian talks and helped improve relations between these two states.

Lithuania

Ukraine's Kravchuk Continues Official Visit

Kravchuk Addresses Seimas

LD0802143894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1055 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Address by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to Seimas session in Vilnius—live; in Ukrainian with sentence-by-sentence translation into Lithuanian]

[Text] [Words indistinct] friendly relations between our two states will become an important political step aimed at strengthening and widening of mutually beneficial bilateral ties in all areas of our mutual relations. The people of Ukraine have great esteem for the friendly Lithuanian nation with which we share ancient historical ties dating back to ancient times.

Our relations trace their roots from the times of Kiev Rus which played a significant role in the establishment of Lithuania. In its turn, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania helped Ukrainians to a great extent in preserving their traditions, language, and religion, and keeping the original culture of our people from extinction. It was during that period close ties between our states and our people originated, now adopting a new nature.

Who knows whether linguists are right in asserting a similarity between our languages? But when we hear the melodious Lithuanian language, it is indeed reminiscent of our native Ukrainian. At any rate, the name Kravchuk in Ukraine is usually followed alphabetically by names like Lytvyn, Lytvynchuk, and the like.

A notable event in the history of our relations was the peace treaty between Ukraine and Lithuania signed in 1921, according to which the then Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Lithuanian Democratic Republic recognized each other's sovereignty and independence. A qualitatively new stage in the relations between our countries began in 1991, after Ukraine and Lithuania acquired state independence. It is symbolic that Ukraine was among the first to recognize Lithuania as an independent state, while Lithuania was among the first to recognize Ukraine's political independence.

We attach priority significance to our relations with the Lithuanian republic. They benefit not only from the old historical ties, but also from the common positions and views shared by our countries on a wide range of international and regional issues. A

factor which brings our people closer is the presence of a large Ukrainian community in Lithuania. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity and express through the esteemed Lithuanian Seimas our deep gratitude to the Lithuanian people, the president and the government of Lithuania for the attention they give to the national and cultural needs of Ukrainians.

Lithuania is one of Ukraine's biggest trade partners. However, the development of trade and economic ties between our states has not yet achieved its full potential. Ukraine and Lithuania could cooperate to mutual advantage in practically any area. This includes export of ore, coal, coke, rolled metal and metal products, electronic technology, and machine-building products from Ukraine. For its part, Ukraine expects to receive various products from Lithuania including consumer goods such as footwear and clothing, as well as products of the chemical and the electronic industries.

We have broad possibilities for cooperation in the area of transport. For example, Ukraine is interested in having access to the Baltic Sea and at the same time Lithuania could use the potential of Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea.

I cannot omit to mention the broad perspectives for the development of cultural cooperation between our countries that have ancient traditions. It was here in Vilnius

that Taras Shevchenko, the great Ukrainian poet, artist and thinker, took his first steps in art and literature. Lesya Ukrayinka, the distinguished Ukrainian poetess, was in the famous resort of Druskininkai. And the eminent Lithuanian poet Jonas Maironis worked in Kiev.

In my opinion we are obliged not only to preserve these traditions but to multiply them in every possible way and pass them on from one generation to another. In the period that has passed, a great legal foundation was laid on bilateral relations between our two states along diplomatic channels. Today we will sign a treaty on friendship and cooperation with President Brazauskas and I am convinced that it will open a new stage in the development of equal and friendly relations between our states. There is much that unites our peoples.

Unfortunately, today we have common problems. The transition to a market economy is quite a difficult and often painful process and we have felt this. However, Ukraine and I am convinced that Lithuania also, have consciously chosen this path and we will move step-by-step, by means of economic reform and interaction and one state helping another.

We are gradually carrying out privatization and demonopolization, are putting in order the financial and banking system and have adopted a program of anti-inflationary measures. Obviously, we have not managed to do all this quickly and effectively. There are factors, both internal and external, that stimulate this process and there are objective and subjective factors. Despite this we regard the future with optimism and are convinced that with time we will overcome these difficult times and these difficult processes because there is no other alternative. We hope to have mutually beneficial cooperation with all other states including with the Republic of Lithuania. Our emerging from the economic crisis will significantly speed up this process. As the Lithuanian popular saying goes, more is done when two people are at work.

Both Ukraine and Lithuania were always considered to be European states and we link our future with the new Europe and for this reason we aspire to be integrated with the European political, economic and other structures. Ukraine views positively the partnership for peace programme which was recently adopted at a NATO session in Brussels. We consider that an important step has been made in the area of building a new system of general European security and bringing Eastern Europe closer to the West.

In connection with this, we welcome the signing of this important document by the Republic of Lithuania and on our part we are preparing to carry out corresponding measures in the near future. Today our minister of foreign affairs is in Brussels. From the point of view of the mentioned special urgency, in our opinion Ukraine could put forward an initiative on the creation of a zone of stability and security in the Central and Eastern European region which would include all the countries of the Baltic and Black Sea region. It is possible that this initiative to some extent coincides with other projects regarding the general European security system.

In its declaration of state sovereignty, Ukraine proclaimed its intention to adopt a non-nuclear status, thus becoming the first state to voluntarily give up the nuclear arms it inherited. By this, it proved once again the peaceful nature of its foreign policy aimed at defusing tension in Europe and the entire world. An important step towards strengthening of international security and stability was the recent signing by Ukraine, the United States and Russia of a trilateral statement which envisages elimination of the nuclear arms deployed on the territory of Ukraine.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen! Our peoples had to suffer bitter times and injustice on their road to freedom and independence. But in spite of that, we are building our statehood, reviving national culture and spirituality, we and look to the future with hope. I am convinced that this can be greatly helped by the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations between Ukraine and the Lithuanian Republic, and by constant contact between the leadership of our countries, including that at the top level.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the esteemed Seimas fruitful work, and the friendly Lithuanian people - happiness, peace and prosperity on the road of independent development. I sincerely hope that relations between our states will develop and strengthen for the benefit of our peoples. Thank you for your attention.

Cooperation Accord Signed

LD0802173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius February 8 TASS—A Ukrainian-Lithuanian treaty on friendship and cooperation was signed today by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, currently here on a one-day official visit, and Lithuanian leader Algirdas Brazauskas. Another three economic agreements were signed by heads of Ukrainian and Lithuanian ministries and departments.

Kravchuk and Brazauskas praised the documents at a news conference and described them as "historic and upgrading the Lithuanian-Ukrainian relations."

Asked whether the Ukrainian striving to join the Partnership for Peace program will influence its relations and negotiations with Russia, Kravchuk said it won't happen since Russia may also join the program.

As for the Black Sea Fleet, the Ukrainian president noted "it is a vitally important problem for Ukraine, and it should be settled on a mutually beneficial basis, which is being done. Russia is a Ukrainian foreign political priority. One should distinguish the state policy from the

policy of the opposition. We stand for good-neighbourly peaceful relations with Russia."

Both presidents called for the expansion of Ukrainian-Lithuanian economic relations, which have not reached a worthy level.

Kravchuk suggested Ukrainian use of the Klaipeda port to "give Ukrainian goods way to northern Europe via the Baltic Sea and Lithuanian goods—to the south via Ukrainian Black Sea ports".

Brazauskas, Kravchuk Hold News Conference

LD0802183294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1130 GMT 8 Feb 94

[News conference by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk at the Seimas radio studio; Kravchuk speaks in Ukrainian with passage-by-passage translation into Lithuanian; translated from the Lithuanian; correspondents not named—live]

[Text] [Announcer] The treaty on friendship and cooperation has just been signed and the presidents are going to hold a news conference. The news conference is relayed live from the Seimas radio studio.

[Brazauskas] The Ukrainian delegation. [sentence as heard] We are happy to witness a great event in our political lives. We have defined, I can even say we have improved our relations with a great state such as Ukraine. Today's visit will make a very good and positive impression on our lives.

We have discussed possible paths for our further cooperation with Mr. President and his delegation. We also spoke about the improvement of these relations, we touched upon foreign policy matters as well. I congratulated Mr. Kravchuk on Ukraine's decision [changes thought] and I believe that namely today the Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs is signing the Partnership for Peace agreement. [Words indistinct] today join the ranks of partners, especially such a mighty partner as Ukraine.

Discussing the issues of our domestic policies we, of course, spoke mostly about the progress of economic reform and about the results of this progress, both positive and negative. We shared our experience [in this sphere].

[Kravchuk] Ladies and gentlemen, in sharing the conclusions and assessments that President Brazauskas of Lithuania has just spoken about, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and the Government of Lithuania for the hospitality and the friendly attitude you have shown to us. I am convinced that the signing of today's documents are a very important step, that another step will be taken in Kiev, that the President of Lithuania Mr. Brazauskas, will visit Ukraine and that I will officially invite him to visit our state. Thank you

[Correspondent] A question from the Baltic News Service. I would like to ask the president, do you think that the idea to set up the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea alliance has any future? If so, what meaning could be attached to that idea?

[Kravchuk] I think that the Eastern and Central European initiative that Ukraine proposed and which coincides in many aspects with similar initiatives proposed by Poland, France, and other states, makes possible the creation of such an alliance with the Baltic states, Ukraine, and other states. It is important for me to stress that when we speak about such an alliance, we are not talking about any blocs, any military or political blocs, but about security zones, about economic and political cooperation, and foreign political interaction. We have all the grounds for this.

[Brazauskas] I would like to say a few words. The initiative that has been shown by Ukraine and the Ukrainian president and which has been supported is not, of course, aimed at forming a military bloc, nor is it intended to do so. Therefore, the French initiative, or more precisely, the initiative shown by the French Prime Minister coincides with the above mentioned initiative. These are very concrete steps toward general European cooperation. I think that the Partnership for Peace is one of the main means available in Europe today for carrying out this cooperation.

[Correspondent] A question from Ukrainian television. I have a question to the presidents, the presidents of Ukraine and Lithuania. Please explain—the economic foundation is the priority for future relations between our states, after all, these economic documents were signed today after the political document was signed. What are the basic directions in this development? Thank you.

[Kravchuk] First of all, I would like to stress that economic relations between Ukraine and Lithuania are not just the beginning of such relations. We have a good foundation and traditions, and on the basis of these we should build and broaden our economic relations by laying a new road and principles. At present they do not correspond to our possibilities. There are objective reasons for this: The settlement crisis and the introduction of our own currencies. All this has had an effect on relations but the prospects and the possibilities are too broad, and we have already spoken with Mr. President about the possibilities for trade and cooperation in the field of transport through the Baltic ports; we could have access to this region through the Black Sea and Lithuania could have access to other regions. Therefore, we have good prospects and good possibilities. I spoke about this and once again would like to stress that today we have signed an important political document, which is also partly an economic document. I hope that new documents will be signed in Kiev. Our cooperation and relations in the economic sphere will be broadened and will deepen in all aspects.

[Brazauskas] I would like to say a few words on the same topic. The currently existing developed transport communication lines that link the Baltic Sea with the Black Sea, can be and should be utilized. What is important here is that an agreement, and I would think that there would be no doubt about that, should be reached on these issues with Ukraine and Belarus. Our shipbuilding and ship repair enterprises use steel that is exclusively manufactured and imported from Ukraine. Therefore, we are greatly interested in cooperation, first of all, in this sphere. I think that while both our states are now moving toward a market economy, and this process is not an easy one, our cooperation should be organized in such a way that it will become a very broad and beneficial relationship.

[Correspondent] A question from KOMMERSANT DAILY ROSSIYA. A question to President Kravchuk. Esteemed Leonid Makarovich, Ukraine is the first country in the CIS to join the Partnership for Peace agreement today. Can you tell us please what impact the new situation would have on the rather complex relations with Russia, first of all because of the Black Sea Fleet and with the world community concerning the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Does Ukraine intend to become a full member of NATO?

[Kravchuk] I think that first, the signing of this initiative by Ukraine will not have any bearing on relations with Russia, because perhaps Russia will also sign this initiative on Partnership for Peace too. After all, this initiative is open to all countries. When we all become members, [changes thought] not members, but when we all sign this initiative then there will be real cooperation between all states. Second, I am convinced that resolving the nuclear arms problem and implementing the trilateral agreement by all sides, which was signed in Moscow, we will, at the same time, strengthen the positive attitude and friendly relations between Russia and Ukraine. I am convinced that we will also resolve the issue of the Black Sea Fleet, because I know that unless the pressing problems of nuclear arms and the Black Sea Fleet are resolved, it will be difficult to build normal friendly relations with Russia. Our political relations with Russia are especially important. I am convinced that this particular meaning will have realistic content if there is goodwill on the part of Russia and Ukraine. I consider that the Partnership for Peace initiative does not contradict the interest of all states but will favor understanding, cooperation, and the working out of certain programs and policies of our foreign policy and also of other states, and this is really being done for the benefit of peace and not confrontation. It is the right of every state to determine its own foreign policy.

[Kravchuk] By way of conclusion, I would like to say that the problems that currently exist between Russia and Ukraine should not be deliberately exacerbated because we are aspiring to resolve them through mutual understanding and mutual support. We are attempting to build these relations for the future so that nobody sows the seeds of discord among our peoples, because our future lies in friendly, and I stress, in friendly and businesslike relations with Russia, our neighbor, with which we have the most interests and where most of our foreign policy is directed. Finally, I would like you to listen to the policy that the Ukrainian state is pursuing and not to listen to the statements made by the opposition, because they do not principally coincide with this most important problem.

[Correspondent] A question from UKRINFORM agency. This is a question to the head of the Republic of Lithuania. Currently, in your country there are approximately 50,000 Ukrainians. Could you say that they live in your country like at home. You probably discussed this problem today with the Ukrainian president.

[Brazauskas] I think that the Ukrainian national minority, which comprises about 50,000 people, are Lithuanian citizens enjoying full rights and there are no problems whatsoever in this matter. We are glad that people of all nationalities, including Ukrainians, have taken up Lithuanian citizenship. The overwhelming majority of them have taken up Lithuanian citizenship. Today, these people are taking an active part in the country's political and social life. I hope that when Mr. President meets representatives of the Ukrainian community he will hear the same thing that I have just said.

[Announcer] This was a live relay of the news conference held by the Lithuanian and Ukrainian presidents at the president's office in Vilnius.

Gylys Departs for Copenhagen To Discuss NATO Link

LD0902123094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys left for Copenhagen today. The Latvian and Estonian foreign ministers are expected to arrive there too. A meeting with Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen will be held to discuss the links of the Baltic states with NATO.

The three foreign ministers were invited to Copenhagen to discuss the Partnership for Peace agreement, because Denmark feels it has a special responsibility for the Baltic states. The agreement is not yet a proposal to become a member of NATO; however, it provides the possibility of taking part in joint military exercises and receiving consultations from NATO if a threat arises against these states.

It has been proposed to determine the date of the expiry of the agreement and the conditions of future membership. Apart from this, the costs with regard to the partnership and practical means of cooperation wdill be discussed at the meeting.

The relations of the Baltic countries with the European Union will be one of the issues under discussion.

Seimas Condemns 'Act of Terrorism' in Sarajevo

LD0802221994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Seimas has urged the parliaments of Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia to do everything they can to stop the killing in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. On Tuesday the Lithuanian parliament made a statement condemning the act of terrorism carried out in Sarajevo on 5 February, when tens of civilians were killed in the capital city of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Lithuanian parliament has also voiced support for the efforts of the United Nations, NATO, and other international organizations to normalize the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Landsbergis Says Military Ring Strengthens, Not Weakens

WS0802122994 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 07, BNS—Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Lithuanian parliament's rightist opposition, urged Lithuanian authorities to ask NATO for help because "the military ring around Lithuania does not weaken but strengthens."

Landsbergis said Lithuania should already use the rights given by NATO's Partnership for Peace plan and must invite NATO experts to observe the situation in and around the Baltic region. At a press conference Monday [7 February], the opposition leader said the step is necessary because Russia concentrates its military force in the Kaliningrad region, delays the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltics and creates its army bases in Belarus.

Landsbergis said Lithuanian leaders have not asked the alliance for help because they think the step may be interpreted as a challenge and may be annoying to Russia.

In Landsbergis' words, despite all statements by Western leaders that they do not want to set new borders in Europe, the continent is divided into three parts.

The opposition leader said the first and "safe" part of the continent is Western Europe, which comprises members of the European Union, NATO and "those on the threshold."

"Russia-dominated Eurasia" makes up the second part, he said.

The third, "exhausted" intermediate zone may turn to either side. The countries that belong to this zone are unwilling to be swallowed by the ruble zone or a military union with Russia, but they face such a threat, the opposition leader said.

Hence, Landsbergis said, Lithuania and other countries in this zone must make up their minds on how to regard Partnership for Peace - as a substitute for NATO membership or as a prerequisite for it.

'Partnership for Peace' Membership Costs Viewed

WS0802123494 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 28 Jan 94 No. 19 p 4

[Editorial: "No One Knows the Price of the Signature..."]

[Text] Lithuania failed to be first among East and Central European countries to sign the "Partnership for Peace" [PFP] program. The Romanian foreign minister already signed this agreement on Wednesday [26 January] and ensured the possibility for his country to be first to settle in the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe [SHAPE]—an office building specially provided for states not belonging to NATO. The Lithuanians secured a nook for themselves in this two-storied house on Thursday, when President A. Brazauskas put his signature under the agreement. However, history will include us in the list of the "first ones" because Lithuania surpassed all former USSR republics with its determination.

Observing the haste with which Lithuania rushed to sign the PFP program, one may suspect that it was afraid of missing an office in the SHAPE—the first one is the winner. There even was no time to find out the price of this nook situated 65 km away from Brussels, and all additions—maneuvers, humanitarian and peacekeeping missions, conferences, and so on. Article 6 of the PFP program reads that "states themselves finance their participation in the PFP activities and share duties in organizing maneuvers in which they themselves participate." The president himself recalled this fact at the signing ceremony.

The situation is laughable: No one knows the price of anything or what we will do in the PFP program, nevertheless, we want to be the first everywhere with the political and sport zeal typical of the Lithuanians.

The president's adviser D. Trinkunas claimed yesterday that His Excellency knew only the approximate price of the PFP, because his office did not make any estimates, and National Defense Ministry [KAM] employees had to inform A. Brazauskas about everything.

Meanwhile, E. Bajariunas, chief of the KAM International Relations and Agreements Department and a member of the government working group on the PFP, stated that there were no accurate estimates because countries participating in the program would themselves finance all events. According to him, Lithuania will participate in the PFP as much as the budget allows, because neither the KAM nor the Foreign Ministry has any finances assigned to this program for this year.

Remembering the facts that 130 million litai this year (about $33 million) has been earmarked for KAM, and that according to some officials, the PFP will cost

Lithuania at least $10 million a year, there is no doubt that the KAM will fail to finance this program.

True, the figure $10 million also seems to be concocted, because according to V. Petkevicius, chairman of the Seimas [parliament] National Security Committee, a company of "blue helmets" would cost Lithuania from $30 to $40 million. Certainly, one may expect assistance from neighboring countries, particularly from Scandinavia. However, they will hardly agree to cover such expenses. The notorious "armored" bicycles from Sweden's military aid have caused enough laughter throughout the world, and it would be high time to feel the ground under one's feet while dreaming.

Nor is there any reason to expect that Lithuania will find in its budget sufficient resources to participate in joint NATO maneuvers. There is a 165-million-litai deficit hole agape in our "state coffers" as of today.

"We do not yet imagine how much our participation in the PFP program will cost us," claimed the president at the 10 January press conference.

Many changes were expected after A. Brazauskas' visit to Brussels. Judging by the president's official statements and media reports, however, financial issues passed in oblivion, as fits an intelligentsia's company.

"We really have enough finances for summit visits," maintained E. Bajariunas and added immediately: "I am joking." However, this joke reminds us of reality very much.

Certainly, Lithuania can refuse joint maneuvers, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions, and other costly integral parts of the program. It is incomprehensible then, however, why we had to sign this document at all. It is the participation in joint military operations that can open the road to NATO in the future.

As an officer responsible for SHAPE's ties with Lithuania has reported, NATO countries will arrange almost 200 drills and training courses this year. Lithuanian representatives have been invited to 40 of them....

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